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VOL. IV NO. 217 MONDAY — MARCH 12, 1979 — JEDDAH — 14 RABI-UL-THANI 1399 A.H. FOURTEEN PAGES — ONE RIYAL



COUNTER DEMONSTRATION: Veiled women stage a counter-demonstration against a women procession in Tehran Saturday asking for equal rights and no "chador" garment. Some clashes occurred between the opposite factions. (AP wirephoto)

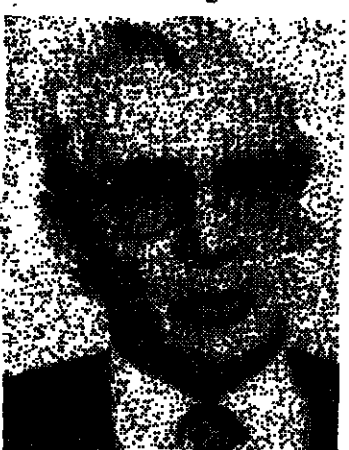
Referendum plans announced

Iran seeks strong Kuwait ties

KUWAIT, March 11 (Agencies) — The government of Iran is seeking "good relations" with Kuwait, Kuwaiti Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Jassem Al-Marzouq announced Sunday. Marzouq said Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah received the message from Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan.

his Interior minister to make arrangements for the referendum later this month which will determine Iran's future form, a government spokesman said. Iranians over the age of 16 will be asked the single question: "Do you want an Islamic republic to replace the monarchy?"

The formula has been criticized by liberal dissidents, led by a new political party, the National Democratic Front. It wants the referendum to endorse abolition of the monarchy, and a second plebiscite later to decide the form of the republic. Ayatollah Khomeini has urged all Iranians to vote for the Islamic republic. He has branded calls for any other formula as treason.



Dr. Karim Sanjabi

200 perish in Indian snowstorms

NEW DELHI, March 11 (R) — Two hundred persons have died in avalanches caused by unusually heavy snowstorms in two remote Himalayan valleys of Himachal Pradesh state, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported Sunday. There have been 193 deaths in the Lahaul Valley and seven in the nearby Pangi Valley, PTI added.

Chinese POWs 'tricked by' their leaders

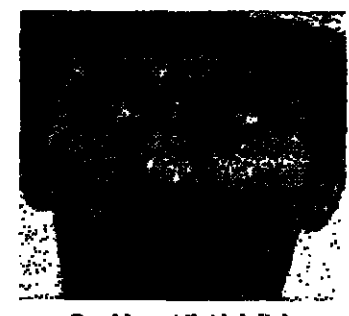
HANOI, March 11 (R) — Seven captured Chinese soldiers told foreign journalists Sunday they were tricked by their leaders into believing they were defending their own country rather than attacking Vietnam. The journalists were allowed to talk to the seven at Trung Thanh, 80 km north of Hanoi, where they all told the same story, during separate interviews.

They said defending one's own country was one thing but invading another totally different. They said their leaders, newspapers and radio had told them they had to fight to defend China. They believed it had been wrong to attack Vietnam.

Finland
Today's "Arab News" includes a special eight-page supplement on Finland.

N. Yemeni leaders, Prince Turki confer

SANAA, March 11 (SPA) — North Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh Sunday received a message from King Khaled on events in Yemen and on the Arab state of affairs in general. The message was handed to Lt. Col. Saleh by Prince Turki Al-Faisal, who arrived here Saturday.



President Ali Abdullah Saleh

Prince Turki also exchanged views on the situation with Qadi Abdul Karim Al-Arshi, North Yemen's vice president, a speaker of the People's Constituent Assembly, and Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani. The meeting was also attended by the Saudi Ambassador to North Yemen, Sheikh Tarrad Al-Harethi, and the military attaché Col. Saleh Al-Hadady.

Several of the ministers expressed hopes that the conflict between South Yemen and the North could be ended in order to save the blood and efforts of Arabs for fighting against their enemies. From Sanaa, committee members are expected to go to Aden in their efforts to examine the underlying reasons for the fighting and to mediate an end to the conflict.



PAINTING DAMAGED: This is the painting "The potato eater" by Vincent van Gogh, after it was slightly damaged March 7 by 33-year-old man wielding a front door key. The painting has a superficial cut in the left top corner. The painting, completed in 1885, shows a group of peasants gathered around a table eating potatoes. (AP wirephoto)

Commando unit loses four fighters

BEIRUT, March 11 (R) — A Palestinian commando organization says four of its men were killed in the occupied West Bank Saturday in which they inflicted heavy casualties on the Israelis.

The operation was in protest against President Jimmy Carter's visit to Egypt and Israel, an official of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF) told a press conference in Beirut. He said the clash occurred in the Jericho area.

He said other members of the commando unit which carried out the operation returned safely to their base. He said the Israelis used heavy weapons and helicopters against the fighters. The aim of the operation, carried out by commandos based inside the occupied land, was to storm some Israeli military posts and take hostages in order to secure the release of Palestinians imprisoned by the Israelis, he said. Many Israelis were killed or wounded, he added.

'Counterspy' disavows Arab names

By Bob Lebling
Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — A mysterious, anonymous booklet now being circulated in Europe and other parts of the world is the source for recent reports that a number of prominent Arab journalists are on the payroll of the American CIA, according to the editor of "Counterspy" magazine. Editor John Kelly — whose magazine reports on and exposes CIA operations throughout the world — totally disavowed any responsibility for the reports and said "Counterspy" had been able to confirm that certain Arab journalists on the list were not CIA agents.

Kelly was commenting on the current controversy in Arab journalistic circles over reports naming a number of Lebanese, Egyptian and other Arab newsmen as U.S. intelligence operatives. He told "Arab News" his magazine had considered publishing the names of seven Lebanese journalists listed in the anonymous booklet. But as "Counterspy" went to press last December, Kelly decided to blacken out the names which he had included in an article on CIA activities in the Middle East — because of "grave doubts about the reliability of information."

'Some progress' made Israeli cabinet meets

JERUSALEM, March 11 (Agencies) — Prime Minister Menachem Begin summoned his cabinet to a special session Sunday night to discuss new Middle East peace proposals put to him by President Jimmy Carter.

An Israeli spokesman said there had been definite progress but that serious problems remained after daylong talks between the two leaders on how to break the deadlock in negotiations for an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

Carter, who flew here from Cairo Saturday, told reporters on emerging from the prime minister's office earlier Sunday, "we have not yet reached final agreement. Important issues still remain to be resolved."

Two long sessions were held by Carter and Begin, supported by their key advisers. In between, the American and Israeli delegations held private meetings of their own, evaluating the course of the negotiations.

CARTER PRAYS: President Jimmy Carter wears a Jewish cap as he kneels down in prayer at the cemetery in Jerusalem Sunday. (AP photo)



Begin said the talks had been very serious and very friendly. Following Sunday's cabinet session, Begin said, the cabinet would reconvene early Monday with Carter and his senior aides in attendance.

"We will be able tomorrow to give replies on these certain issues to the president," Begin said.

U.S. must police M.E., Ball says

LONDON, March 11 (AP) — The United States and its allies must take over the policing of the Middle East to ensure steady supplies of oil, George Ball, under secretary of state in the administrations of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, says.

"There are serious problems and we are dealing with them very seriously," Begin said. The premier sounded in high spirits, telling reporters in detail how much the negotiators enjoyed their lunch, and how

When Carter sat down for talks with Israeli leaders, Mrs. Carter visited the Mevasserat Zion Center for new immigrants on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Open letter to Carter

AMMAN, March 11 (Agencies) — An open letter addressed to President Carter Sunday told him that any peace treaty signed without the full support of the Palestinians would never bring any lasting or just peace in the Middle East.

West Bank protests

RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank, March 11 (AP) — An Israeli armored car guns its engine and smashes through a crude barrier of stones and oil drums. The Palestinian girls who put up the roadblock scream "PLO, PLO, PLO."

Habash hits 'onslaught'

BEIRUT, March 11 (R) — The leader of a radical Palestinian commando organization Sunday attacked what he called the American onslaught on the Middle East after the Iranian revolution.

Dutch unit dances with S. Lebanese

HARIS, South Lebanon, March 11 (R) — Dutch troops, newly arrived in Lebanon Sunday joined villagers in a folk dance or relaxed in the sun in this village 20 kilometers east of Tyre. The troops flew to Beirut Saturday to replace French soldiers serving with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), who are due to leave on March 15. The Dutch contingent which Sunday took over the headquarters of the French force, is made up of about 300 army regulars and 500 conscripts.

Dr. George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), also called for the use of Arab oil as a weapon against the United States. Dr. Habash was speaking at a rally organized by the PFLP to mark "Martyr's Day" commemorating those who have died for the Palestine cause. He said the Iranian revolution had "shaken the foundations of imperialist strategy" in the area.

Counterspy disavows Arab names

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The mysterious booklet, mailed to "Counterspy" with no return address, is called "CIA Insider: News of Facts from Agency Files." Kelly said the 30-page pamphlet contains lists of names of alleged CIA agents working for newspaper and magazines around the world. "Counterspy" initially thought the booklet was accurate. "Through our own sources, we were able to confirm that the Greek journalists listed in the booklet were indeed CIA operatives," Kelly said. But information received later indicated that the list was a mix of true intelligence agents and innocent people, he said. "I began checking the Lebanese names," the editor said. "Soon we had enough evidence that the 'CIA Insider' was unreliable." Kelly expressed concern over reports that the CIA was responsible for the naming of Arab newsmen as CIA agents. He said his magazine had never accused specific Arab journalists of working for U.S. intelligence, and had no intention of doing so. "I person-

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Guinea leader flies to Kuwait

JEDDAH, March 11 (SPA) — President Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea left here Sunday for Kuwait after his visit to Saudi Arabia.

He was seen off at the airport by Crown Prince Fahd, Second Deputy Premier and Commander of the National Guard Prince Abdullah, Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince Sultan, Governor of Mecca Prince Fawaz and other cabinet ministers, senior officials and high-ranking officers.

Earlier K.T.Li, Republic of China Minister of the National Security Council in Taiwan, left for Amman after a short visit to Saudi Arabia.

He was seen off at the airport by Mecca Police Commander Lt. Gen. Ali Al-Mashouf and the Chinese ambassador.

Witness saves Saudi in U.S.

JEDDAH, March 11 — The testimony of an old woman has saved a Saudi student from imprisonment in an American jail according to local press reports here Sunday. The Saudi youth crashed into a bus at a crossroads, forcing the bus into another car. An American girl in the third vehicle died. Police said the Saudi had run a red light and jailed him in on a charge of manslaughter. The old woman came forward at the preliminary hearing and testified that the lights at that corner were faulty and often gave both sides the right of way. The Saudi was released.

Malaysian aide meets rectors

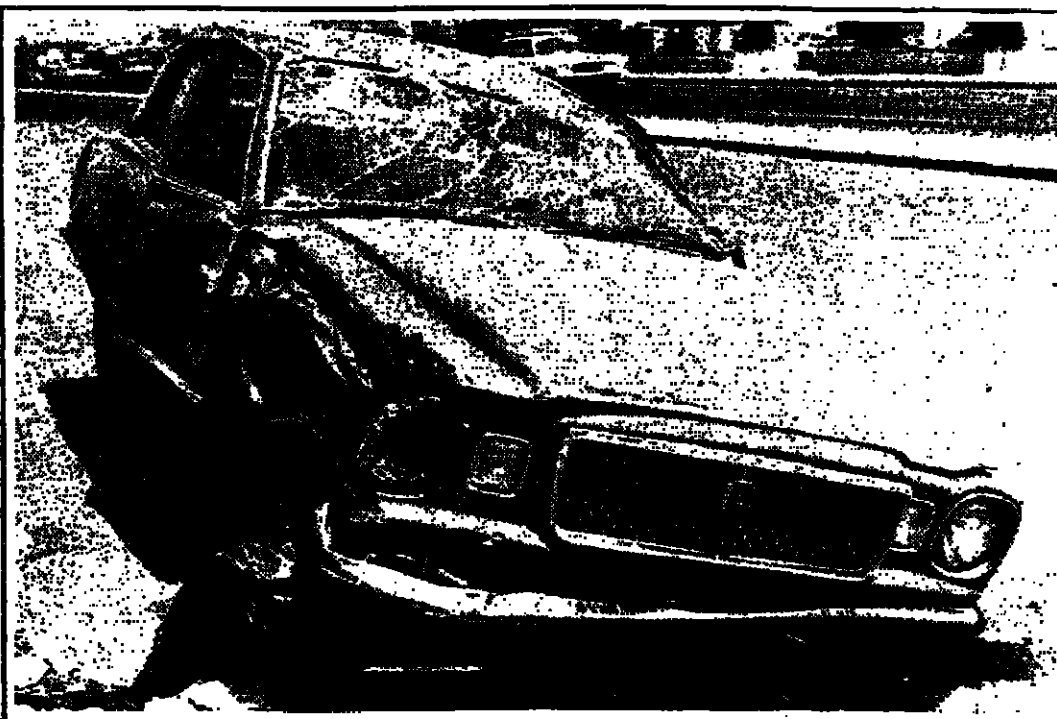
RIYADH, March 11 (SPA) — Datu Muhammad ibn Al-Haj Yaacob, the chief minister of Kelantan State in Malaysia Sunday visited Riyadh and Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic Universities. The Malaysian official conferred with the rector and other university officials on cultural and scientific assistance for Kelantan.

Naif receives French envoy

JEDDAH, March 11 (SPA) — Minister of Interior Prince Naif Sunday received French Ambassador Michel Drumetz for cordial talks.

Aba Al-Khail set for Kampala

RIYADH, March 11 (SPA) — Minister of Finance and National Economy Sheikh Muhammad Aba Al-Khail leaves for Kampala Monday to attend the third annual meeting of governors of Islamic development banks, which opens there Tuesday.



FAMILIAR: This Japanese car somersaulted across the median strip on Prince Fahd Street, Jeddah, Saturday but there were no injuries.

For historical research College to award SR200,000 prize

JEDDAH, March 11 — King Abdul Aziz University will award prizes for essays on the history of the Peninsula and Saudi Arabia.

"Okaz" newspaper reported Sunday.

The competition will be for the "King Faisal Prizes for Historical Studies," worth a total of SR200,000.

This will be the second competition.

The prizes will be awarded for three topics: historians of the Arabian Peninsula during the 13th century of the Islamic calendar, King Faisal and the Palestine issue and security in the era of King Abdul Aziz.

Each of these topics have been allotted two prizes, one of SR 40,000 and the other of SR 25,000. The terms of the contest stipulated that the research must be original and must not have been published.

Meeting to view Jerusalem fund

MECCA, March 11 (SPA)

— Ministers of endowments and Islamic affairs from 42 Muslim countries will meet here, March 31 to April 3, under the auspices of the Muslim World League, to discuss the setting up of a Jerusalem fund to protect holy places in the city.

earlier in Arabic or any other language. The work must be submitted primarily in Arabic, but English or French may be permissible provided it is accompanied with a resume in Arabic.

According to the terms and conditions, the contestant must also abide by usual rules for research and his paper must be supported by original documents and sources as far as possible.

SR83m public schemes finished in Tabuk lately

JEDDAH, March 11 —

Public service projects worth SR 83 million have been completed in Tabuk in recent months and a study has been prepared for a sewage system for the town, "Al-Nadwa" newspaper reported Sunday.

The Tabuk Municipality has prepared a study on a green belt for the city and for the development of King Faisal's program for the distribution of land to the poor. Land in New Tabuk is to be divided into 3000 individual plots and allotted to deserving people, the municipality said.

Jazairi opens health meeting

RIYADH, March 11 (SPA) — Health ministers from Arab countries opened five days of meetings here Sunday, with the issue of medical assistance to Palestine refugees and the assistance expected to head the agenda.

Saudi Minister Dr. Hussein Al-Jazairi, deputizing for King Khaled, opened the meeting at the King Faisal Conference Hall — the fourth session of the Arab Health Ministers' Council.

The council earlier urged Arab health ministries to continue financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. It requested them to send a doctor and a nurse to have the society for at least a year.

This week's meeting will also take up Arab relief work in major catastrophes or disasters in any Arab country.

The council will also discuss aid to help Somalia face its current drought.

During the opening session, the council decided to ban smoking in all its sessions.

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Jeddah trade fair opens Spain makes up for lost time

By John Close
JEDDAH, March 11 — After complicated two months of organization, the Spanish Embassy opened its trade fair at Jeddah's Chamber of Commerce Sunday with great Mediterranean flair.

If in the past, the Spaniards have been less active than other foreign countries in the pursuit of Saudi business, they seemed to be making up for lost time Sunday morning as a wealth of goods went on display.

Chairman of the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce Sheikh Ismail Abu Daoud and Madrid's ambassador Jose Antonio Acebal were on hand to open the fair, at which over 100 Spanish firms were represented.

On the first floor of the commerce center building materials and large construction firms dominated. Of the consultants there the most successful in Saudi Arabia is the Techuboria a consortium of Spanish companies which is now designing a new campus for the Islamic University in Riyadh.

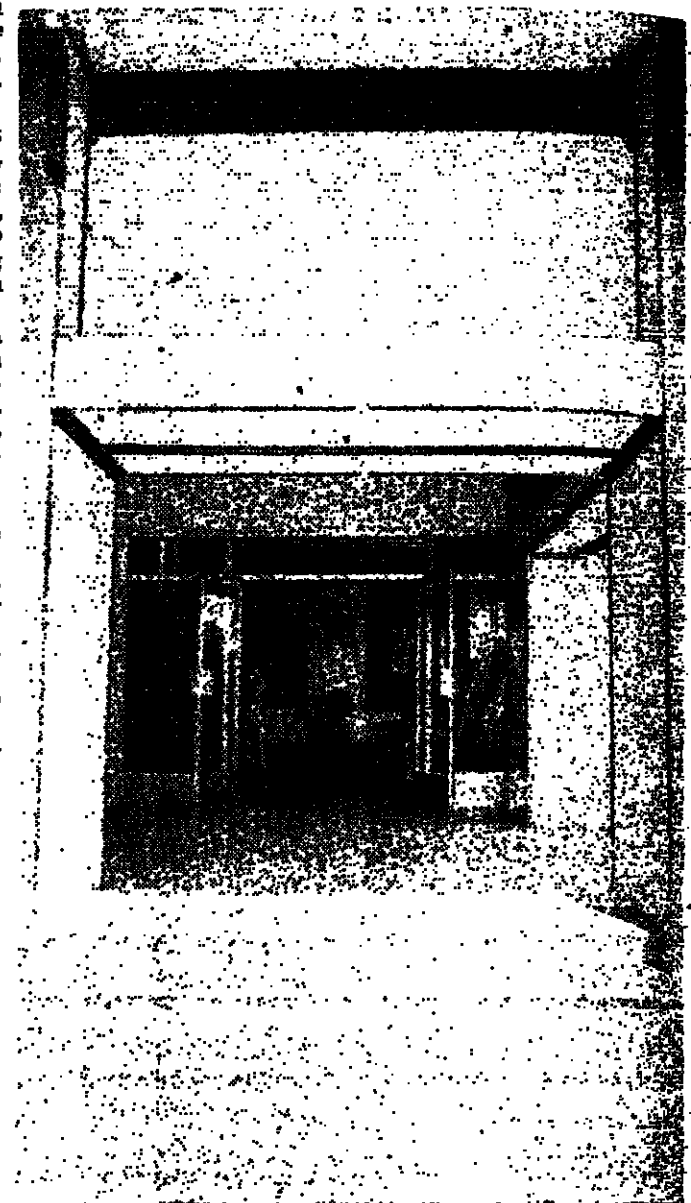
The second floor was given up to each interior furnishings as chandeliers, rugs, and wallpaper. The aim of the fair, according to Spanish commercial attaché Luis Ruiz Arbeloa, is to win orders but the samples are also for sale.

Outside the center in the small courtyard, forklift trucks, tractors and trucks were on display.

Arbeloa has great hopes for Spanish-Saudi trade. On Feb. 17 the Saudibank, the first major joint venture between Spanish and Saudi commercial banks, was formally inaugurated in Madrid.

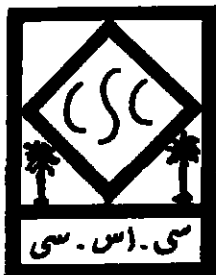
Saudi investors in the venture include the largest Saudi bank in the Kingdom, National Commercial Bank, which holds 15 per cent of the shares. The Saudi-French Bank, the Saudi-British Bank and the Saudi-Dutch bank each have 5 per cent.

The Chamber of Commerce in Jeddah will be hosting the present trade fair until March 18.



GATEWAY TO SPAIN: The entrance of the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce was decorated with the flags of Spain and Saudi Arabia Wednesday to mark the third Spanish trade fair in the Kingdom. Over 100 Spanish companies are represented on two floors of the chamber of commerce including construction firms, suppliers of building materials, furniture companies and heavy equipment manufacturers. The exhibition will be open to the public until March 18. The chamber of commerce is near the Ministry of Information on Mina Road.

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Court postpones Bhutto decision

RAWALPINDI, March 11 (R) — Pakistan's Supreme Court Sunday adjourned until next Saturday its hearing of a petition by condemned ex-Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, following the death of one of his leading lawyers.

Bhutto's lawyers had pleaded for a two-week break following the death of a senior member of the defense team on Friday, but the court ruled that "long adjournment is neither justified nor appropriate."

Bhutto has petitioned the Supreme Court for a review of its decision last month to reject his appeal against the death sentence for ordering the assassination of a political opponent.

Ghulam Ali Memon, 51, was buried in Karachi Saturday after he suffered a heart attack while preparing notes for his next appearance before the court.

Defense lawyers said Saturday the panel would have to be reconstituted but that replacement of Memon, an expert on criminal law, would be difficult.

The seven judges who considered the application for an adjournment said ordinarily the hearing of the case should have been resumed immediately after the funeral of the late lawyer but agreed to an adjournment to "allow sufficient time for further preparation."

Bhutto's senior attorney, Yahya Bakhtiar, had earlier complained about shortage of time and said his colleague died because of the work load.

Dozens of the world's leaders in the Middle East, Europe, Asia and America, have asked for clemency for Bhutto. But Pakistan's Head-of-State Gen. Zia ul Haq has said, that he will not consider these appeals until after the Supreme Court has completed its review.

Zia has also said that he will abide by a consensus of his government on the fate of the former prime minister.

Recently, a high ranking official of the Pakistan People's Party, with which Bhutto is affiliated, met with Zia to ask him to spare Bhutto's life.

Arabs urged to foil U.S. peace plan

LONDOS, March 11 (R) — The Arab People's Congress has called on all Arabs to join in opposing President Carter's current drive to bring about a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, the official Libyan news agency has said in a dispatch from Tripoli.

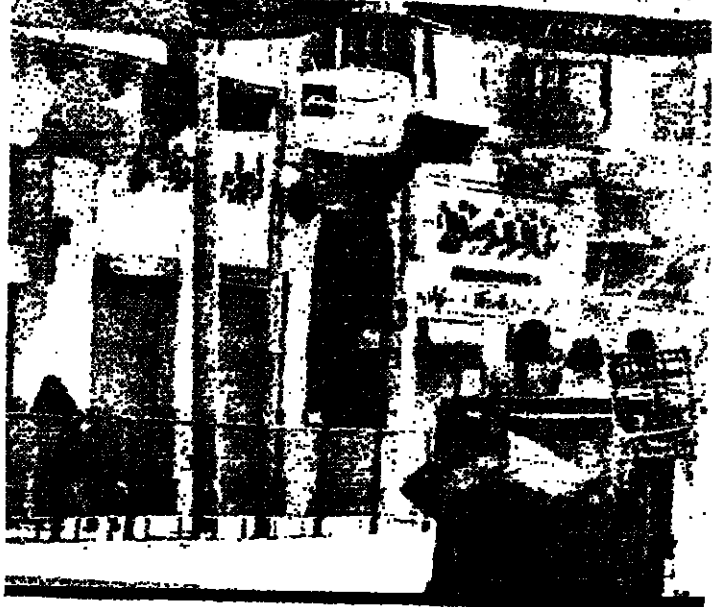
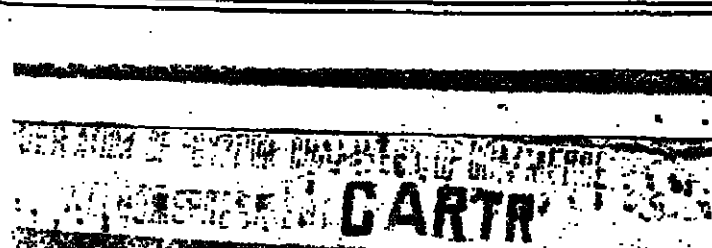
The congress, which also group; leftist organizations from Arab countries, was formed in December, 1977 to oppose President Sadat's peace initiative. The agency said the permanent secretariat of the Congress had declared in a statement: "Let all Arab masses rush as one unified front to foil the new Carter-Begin-Sadat conspiracy."

Guinea leader in Kuwait for talks

KUWAIT, March 11 (R) — President Ahmad Sekou Toure of Guinea arrived Sunday on a one-day visit to Kuwait for talks on strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in economic fields, and Afro-Arab cooperation. He was greeted by the Ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and senior officials. Sekou Toure has also visited the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

U.S. envoy assumes Bahrain post

BAHRAIN, March 11 (R) — American Ambassador Robert Pelletreau has taken up his post in Bahrain. Pelletreau was deputy head of the U.S. Mission in Damascus. He presented his credentials to the Ruler of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Ben Sulman al-Khalifa Saturday.



WELCOME SIGN: The Egyptian Chamber of Commerce, in preparing for the visit of President Carter, hung a large welcome banner across a downtown Cairo street but they left out the "E" in Carter (top). Bottom picture shows a workman hanging banners of President Sadat and Carter in downtown Cairo. Carter arrived in Cairo Thursday for talks concerning American proposals for a peace settlement. He left for Tel Aviv Saturday night to pursue his peace drive. (AP photos)

Morocco links peace to Rabat resolutions

DOHA, March 11 (R) — Morocco has said President Anwar Sadat of Egypt would become a hero if he succeeded in achieving a just and permanent peace in the Middle East on the basis of the 1974 Rabat summit conference resolutions.

"But if he fails he will become a martyr of his own cause," the Chief of the Moroccan Royal Court Ahmad Bin Souda told reporters here Saturday.

Sin Souda, who arrived Friday to deliver a message from King Hassan of Morocco to the ruler of Qatar, was commenting on President Carter's present visit to Egypt and Israel.

"Any outcome of President Carter's attempts would be scrutinized in the framework of the summit resolutions. Any decision which violated the resolutions would only add insult to injury," Bin Souda said.

The summit recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole representative of the Palestinians and called for total Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands, including Jerusalem.

Egypt said holding 100 Jordanians

AMMAN, March 11 (R) — The Jordanian newspaper, "Al-Rai" said Sunday that about 100 Jordanians had been barred from entering Egypt and were being detained at Cairo Airport.

The newspaper said that three other groups of Jordanians were recently sent back to Amman after they were interrogated by Egyptian.

It quoted Jordanian officials as saying that while Jordan rejected such treatment, it would refrain from taking reciprocal measures against Egyptians and would continue to welcome Arab brethren in its territory.

"Al-Rai" did not say when the 100 Jordanians were detained but added that the Jordanian embassy in Cairo was contacting the Cairo government to obtain their release.

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Replying to allegations of coverup

Botha slams Rhodie on scandal

CAPE TOWN, March 11 (R) — Prime Minister Pieter Botha has delivered a blistering attack on former Information Secretary Eschel Rhodie in a further escalation of South Africa's "slush fund" scandal.

Botha was replying Saturday to fresh allegations by Rhodie which appeared in an interview with the opposition newspaper the "Rand Daily Mail."

Rhodie, who left South Africa when the scandal broke out into the open late last year, said the full cabinet, including former Prime Minister John Vorster, knew of secret projects which included the launching of the pro-government "Citizen" newspaper.

In his statement Botha said, "I reject these smear stories with contempt. Dr. Rhodie's contemptible behavior from overseas to connive with certain opposition newspapers is a transparent game to take ven-

geance on people who exposed his irregularities."

Botha said the government was considering asking the official commission of inquiry into the scandal to release its findings early and to investigate "the unequal smear campaign" by Rhodie.

He added, "I would like to

refer again to the cowardice of Dr. Rhodie, who is flying around overseas instead of coming to South Africa to look his own people in the eye."

The government withdrew Rhodie's passport and froze his assets when he left the country shortly after giving evidence to

the commission of inquiry.

Rhodie and former Information Minister Connie Mulder — who later resigned both his ministry and his parliamentary seat — were deeply implicated by the report of an initial judicial inquiry into the misuse of millions of pounds of public funds.

Uganda accuses Tanzanian, insurgent forces of atrocities

NAIROBI, March 11 (Agencies) — President Idi Amin Sunday accused Tanzanian and Ugandan rebel insurgents of planning genocide if they win the war. The remarks followed accusations Saturday by Uganda of atrocities committed by the enemy.

Uganda Radio Sunday

asserted that a 13-point document captured with a Tanzanian unit contained a master plan for postwar bloodshed. The broadcast accused the Tanzanians of seeking to establish a puppet Ugandan state that would bring back American, British and Israeli imperialists, break relations with the Soviet Union,

invite the return of foreign businessmen, and "eliminate" large tribal.

The blast, typical of Amin's more expansive rhetoric is probably, a sign that he is feeling more confident about the military situation on the ground.

Saturday Uganda accused the Tanzanian and rebel invasion force of looting, destroying property and assaulting nuns as it moved through the country.

Radio Uganda, monitored here, said the battle between troops loyal to Amin and Ugandan exiles had now reached a climax, and the anti-Amin forces were in retreat about 110 kilometers from Kampala.

But exiles in Nairobi discounted the report and said the rebel forces were still advancing slowly along the main road to the capital, and were now 55 kilometers away. They could not say whether the two sides had clashed Saturday.

Uganda radio quoted Amin as saying the morale of his troops was high and they were fighting to the last man.

White miners may strike

S. African mine shutdown looms

JOHANNESBURG, March 11 (AP) — South Africa's mining industry is waiting to see whether the 16,000 members of the all-white Mine Workers' Union (MWU) will heed the Friday night call of their executive committee and join a three-day strike of the country's vital mines.

The union's call to extend the strike to all member-worked mines — including gold, copper, asbestos, platinum failed to stop the steady return to normal within the industry reported Saturday by mining houses and the Chamber of Mines.

Shaft representatives of the MWU were to hold meetings to explain the committee's decision to continue the strike.

The nationwide walkout began Wednesday as a one-day action in sympathy with white miners at the O'okiep copper mines in Nababeep, Namaqualand, who went out over the hiring of three mixed-race workers for skilled jobs previously set aside for whites.

The issue is one of job reservation, or the retention of certain

work categories for this country's 4.4 million white minority, over the 19 million black majority, 2.4 million mixed-race and 765,000 Asian population.

Workers remained off the job Thursday to protest an announcement by the Chamber of Mines, which represents 102 or 92 per cent of all operative mines in South Africa, that all strikers automatically lost their jobs and forfeited accumulated benefits and privileges as a result of the illegal stop-work action.

General secretary P.J. "Arrie" Paulus explained late Friday that the union refuses to allow its members to return to work as long as "there are any loss of benefits. We must go back as if nothing has happened."

And the union announced that any members who do not stay off the job will be fined or expelled.

The chamber of mines said Saturday that more than half of the 10,000 striking miners at the chamber-represented mines were back at work, despite scores of reports of intimidation by union "hard-liners."

There are 36,000 white workers in the South African mining industry, whose total labor force runs as high as 450,000.

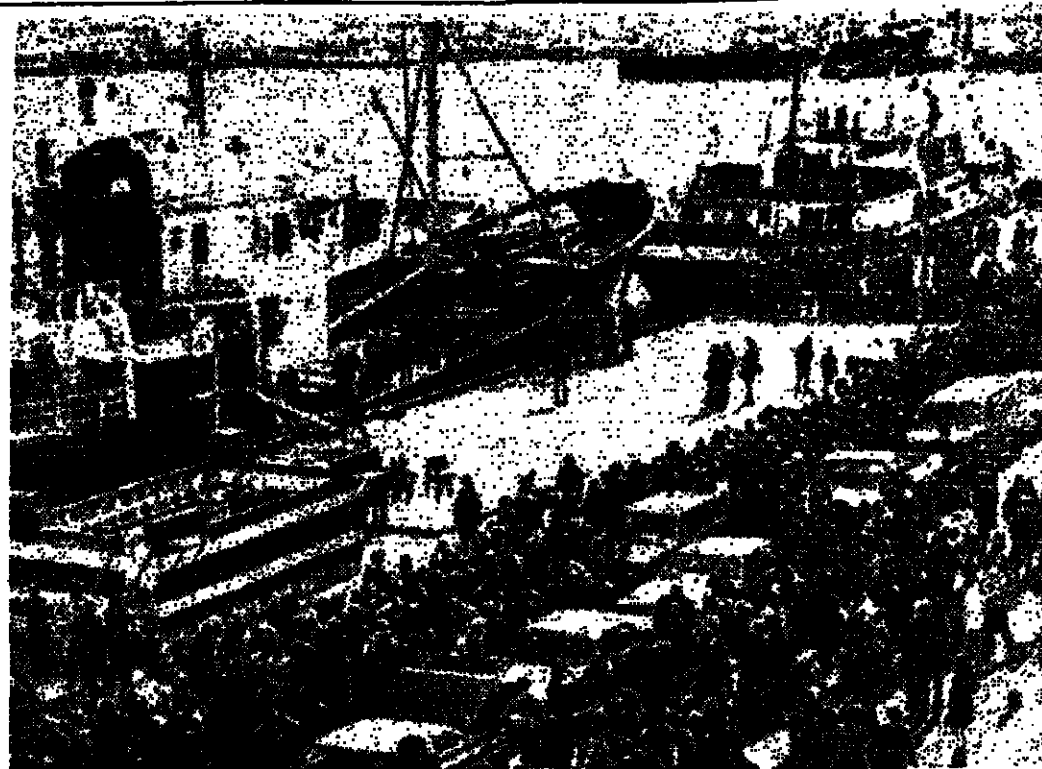
"We have had information that at least three miners were fairly badly beaten up on one mine on the West Rand when they tried to cross a picket line to go back to work," said Johann Liebenberg, the chamber's industrial relations adviser here.

"On other incidents, police have been called in to break up pickets, because, as you know, picketing is illegal in South Africa."

Herrera takes office in Venezuela today

CARACAS, March 11 (AP) — Luis Herrera Campins becomes Venezuela's fifth freely elected president in 20 years in inaugural ceremonies Monday. His criticism of his predecessor's oil policies has led to speculation he will take a hard line on petroleum prices and production. Leaders of his Social Christian

Party have assailed the outgoing Democratic Action Government of President Carlos Andres Perez for postponing new increases in crude oil prices until April, while some other oil states are already boosting theirs. He has accused Perez of giving in to pressure from multinational oil companies.



ST. JOHN'S: The official start of this year's annual seal hunt off Newfoundland. The ceremony went off peacefully, but 12 protesters were arrested while staging a demonstration afterward. Saturday the ships were being prevented by heavy ice from reaching the area of the cull. (AP photo).

Off Newfoundland

Ice delays Canada seal cull

ST. ANTHONY, Newfoundland, March 11 (R) — Heavy ice has stopped the hunters' ships from getting through to thousands of seal pups and delayed the start of what has become about the most controversial hunt in the world.

The Canadian government has supplied an icebreaker to help the ships reach the ice floes off the Newfoundland coast known as "the Front" where the seal herds gather to give birth.

The government supports the hunting of the pups for their white coats, saying it provides an

important income for the low-earning sealers. But many conservationists oppose the annual hunt and say the seal is an endangered species.

Although the main annual hunt was officially timed to start Saturday, some hunting was already under way on the ice-covered Gulf of St. Lawrence, west of Newfoundland — where eight protesters were arrested in a scuffle Friday for spraying red dye on the pups to make their pelts worthless.

The government said Saturday that five Canadian sealing

ships and some Norwegian vessels were nosing through the ice to begin the main hunt. But they would not reach their quarry at least until Sunday.

Six extra police arrived in this small community at the northern tip of Newfoundland Friday in case of fresh efforts by protesters to hamper the hunt.

Members of the Greenpeace Foundation group, which has staged protests against the hunt for the last four years, were flying here Saturday and Sunday.

Greenpeace and other conservation groups are not disclosing their protest activities in advance.

Canadian law forbids anyone without a permit approaching the hunt. One Greenpeace member, Ed Chavies, has been given permission to visit the hunt just once as an observer.

50,000 march to protest Portuguese government

OPORTO, Portugal March 11 (AP) — Nearly 50,000 left-wing demonstrators marched through the streets of this northern industrial city Saturday in the largest anti-government protest seen here for the past three years.

At a rally preceding the peaceful march, officials representing the city-wide Trade Union Council, Portugal's pro-Soviet Communist Party and a handful of extreme left splinter groups condemned the three-month government of Prime Minister Carlos Mota Pinto for alleged right-wing policies, and demanded that parliament vote the non-party executive out of power.

After the speeches demonstrators left the city's principal square for a three-hour march through the downtown area shouting, "the struggle continues, Mota Pinto out," as "special taxes on those who've got the money," in protest against a new tax proposed by the government.

No incidents of violence were reported along the marchers' circular route as it led back to the original point.

More than 500 police, mostly riot squads, were reported to have been on hand. But eyewitnesses said all marchers and police were good-humored in the warm spring weather.

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Left-right clash averted in England

WINCHESTER, England March 11 (AP) — A massive show of police force Saturday kept left and right wing demonstrators more than half a mile apart to prevent clashes over a hunger strike in Winchester Jail.

Seven arrests were made in preventing a confrontation between 1,000 members of the extreme right-wing National Front and members of the Anti-Nazi League, a Marxist body.

The Front demonstrators want to stage a march past Winchester Prison, where Robert Reif has been on a hunger strike for 38 days.

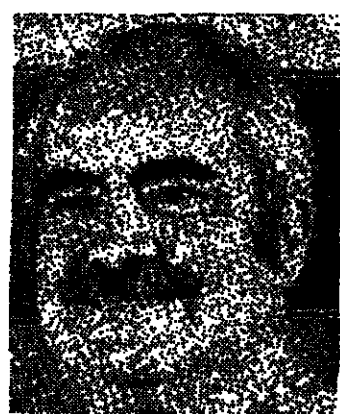
Reif is serving a 15-month jail sentence for publishing leaflets likely to stir up race hatred.

Mali minister faces death for corruption

TIMBUKTU, Mali March 11 (AP) — Former Defense Minister Kissima Douraka has been condemned to death for the second time in nine months after a trial of nine men accused of massive misappropriation of public funds, bribery and corruption.

A special state security court handed down the verdict Friday after a two-day trial of four former members of the ruling National Military Committee, and five other soldiers and civilians.

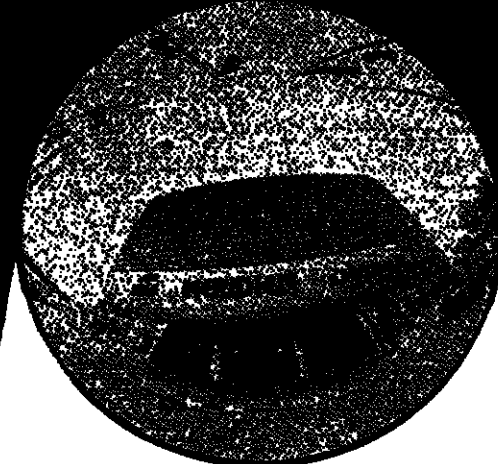
Douraka, who was sentenced to death last October for his part in a coup d'etat, was ordered to repay \$ 9.2 million.



Luis Herrera Campins

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Silkwood trial proves test of American atomic safety

Oklahoma City March 11 (AP) — A courtroom battle between nuclear industry critics and an energy industry conglomerate continues here this week in the first suit claiming a person was contaminated with plutonium outside a nuclear fuel processing plant.

The suit is being heard in federal court before a jury of four men and two women.

Safety practices
Miss Silkwood has become a martyr to nuclear industry



THE MORNING AFTER: An apartment house dweller begins tearing down posters for Spain's March 1 elections after the campaign closed. Premier Adolfo Suarez' Central Democratic Union captured a majority. (AP photo)

Lethal anti-cancer drug muted by blood proteins

LA JOLLA, Calif. March 11 (AP) — Laboratory mice treated with a combination of the anti-cancer drug methotrexate and blood protein lived 20 per cent longer, according to a study by Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation scientists.

Methotrexate has been a mainstay in human cancer chemotherapy for nearly 30 years. But like other anti-cancer drugs, it has a toxic effect on

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opponents, some of whom claim her death wasn't accidental. They say she was silenced en route to meet with a "New York Times" reporter to present him with documentation of poor safety practices at the plant.

At the time of her death, Miss Silkwood worked at the nuclear division of the Kerr-McGee Corp.'s Cimarron facility near Crescent, Oklahoma. She worked in quality control testing of the pencil-thin tubes filled with plutonium pellets that are made to fuel nuclear reactors.

Defendants
Kerr-McGee Corp. and its subsidiary, the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp., are the defendants in the suit filed on behalf of Miss Silkwood's estate. The firm has more than \$1 billion in assets and is one of "Fortune" magazine's top 200 companies.

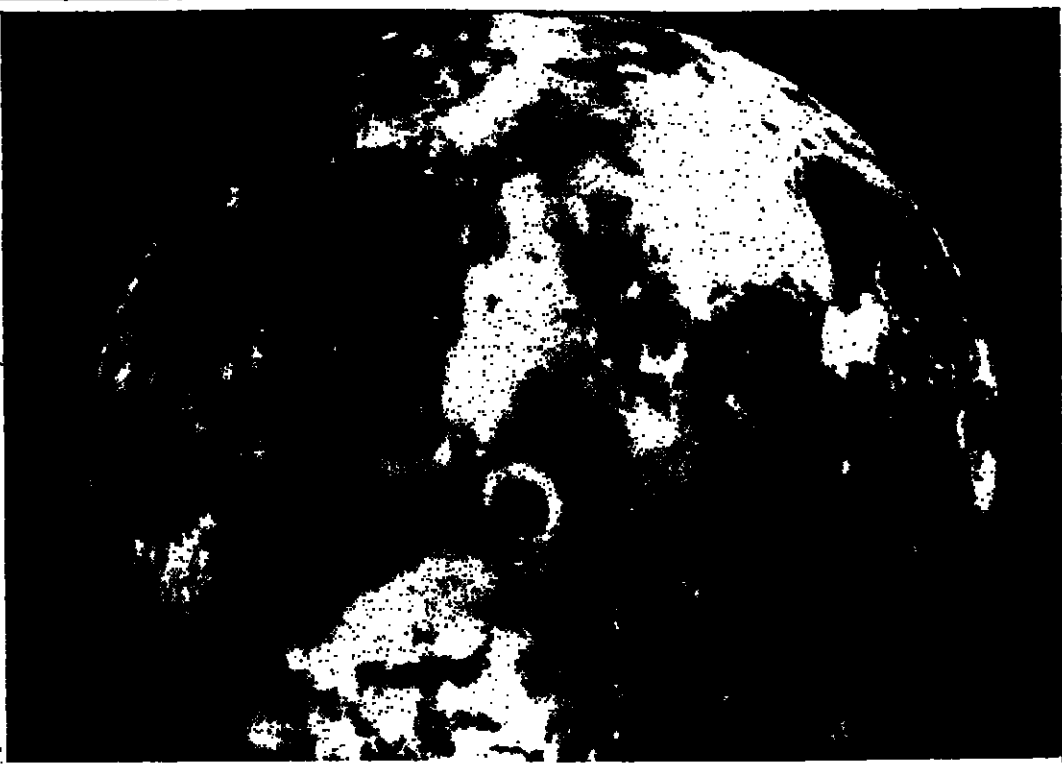
A week before her death, Miss Silkwood and her apartment were found to be seriously contaminated with plutonium. Lawyers for her estate said in opening statements they will prove Kerr-McGee was negligent in allowing plutonium to be taken from its plant.

Self-contaminated
Kerr-McGee attorneys said in opening statements that, as an activist in the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, she may have purposely contaminated herself to embarrass the company and draw attention to her complaints about safety.

They also said they will prove the contamination was minor and that she wouldn't have suffered any lasting injury.

Atomic scientist Dr. John Goffman, described by Silkwood lawyers as the "father of plutonium," testified Thursday. The former Manhattan Project scientist said Silkwood had been exposed to enough plutonium to cause cancer. He said as little as one one-millionth of a gram of plutonium, comparable to one grain of pollen, may cause cancer.

Sharply critical
He was sharply critical of Kerr-McGee's safety procedures and also had harsh words for federal regulatory agencies because of the radiation exposure standards they set for the industry.



IO : Voyager 1 passed Jupiter March 5 and found an orange world on the moon Io of peaks, pits, plains and channels that look as if they were carved by water. This picture was taken from a range of 500,000 miles. (AP photo)

As Voyager hurries on Complexity of Jupiter revealed

PASADENA, Calif. March 11 (AP) — Jupiter once seemed like a fairly simple planet — a great ball of gas and liquid covered by belts of orange and white clouds.

Then came Voyager 1's close encounter last week with the immense and colorful planet that depicted a new picture of Jupiter.

Scientists now marvel at the dazzling complexity of a world covered by Churnin, and spinning multicolored clouds and surrounded, like Saturn, by a flat ring of debris.

Nights on the north pole are lit by a spectacular aurora like the northern lights of Earth. But Jupiter's northern lights are 21 times longer than Earth's diameter.

Voyager 1 also turned its 11 cameras and instruments on the largest of Jupiter's 13 moons — planet-sized worlds in themselves. The result was the first close look at objects far different from anything man has seen before.

"We have had almost a decade's worth of discovery in this two-week period," said project scientist Edward Stone.

Those involved in the Voyager project have been overwhelmed

by a "saturation of new information... which we will probably be studying in great detail for at least five years," Stone said.

The mountains of pictures and data will grow still higher in July, when a second Voyager reaches Jupiter. Voyager 2 is still about 54 million miles from the planet and scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory already are choosing targets for its cameras.

Voyager 1 is well past Jupiter and racing for a Nov. 13, 1980, meeting with Saturn. It will continue observing Jupiter until

Space shuttle sheds insulation on test flight

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. March 11 (AP) — Technicians who had expected the Space Shuttle Columbia to be on its way to Cape Canaveral spent Saturday trying to determine why the 500 million craft shed part of its heat protection equipment while in flight.

"They are still inspecting the bird," National Aeronautics and Space Administration spokesman Deborah Wetzel said, adding another test flight hinged to the shuttle's Boeing 747 mother ship was scheduled for Monday.

The 747 was supposed to fly the Columbia to El Paso, Texas, Saturday morning.

But during a 17 minute test flight Friday, long strips of insulating tape, pieces of styrofoam and ceramic tiles tore loose from the tail and fuselage, said flight director Donald Slayton.

The tape and tiles were part of the system designed to shield the shuttle from the intense heat it will encounter when re-entering the Earth's atmosphere said Slayton, a former Apollo astronaut. After stopping at El Paso, the shuttle is to move on to San Antonio, Texas. From there, it is scheduled to be flown to the launching site at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Ms. Wetzel said a decision on when Columbia would be ready for the trip will be made after Monday's test flight.

The reusable spacecraft is expected to make at least 100 round trips into space.

Andreotti shuns left ; vote seen inevitable

ROME, March 11 (R) — Italy's Christian Democratic Party has rejected Communist conditions for supporting a new government, making premature elections the most likely solution to the six-week-old government crisis.

The party's leadership unanimously decided Saturday night to turn down Communist demands for the inclusion of independent leftists in a new coalition government led by the Christian Democrats as "unacceptable," an official statement said.

Saturday's decision appeared to end the second attempt by Prime Minister-designate Giulio Andreotti to patch together a multi-party alliance that would enable him to form Italy's 41st government since the fall of Fascism.

With chances finding a last-minute compromise now almost exhausted early elections two years before they are scheduled, seemed inevitable.

But the statement issued by the Christian Democrats stressed that it was the policy of the party to avoid premature elections.

It said unacceptable conditions posed by the Communist Party constituted an obstacle which, if not removed, would



Giulio Andreotti

damage the development of a "policy of national solidarity." This reaffirmed the Christian Democrats' adamant refusal to allow Communists into the cabinet, the central issue of the protracted government crisis.

Andreotti's last minority government was brought down on Jan. 31 after the Communists withdrew their support from a five-party parliamentary pact.

The Communists first called for cabinet seats in a government of national unity but later toned down their demands, agreeing to support a government if it included independent leftist deputies elected on the Communist Party ticket.

Byrd ties SALT passage to Turkey's aid package

WASHINGTON, March 11 (AP) — The loss of "listening posts" in Iran may make increased U.S. aid to Turkey a prerequisite for congressional approval of a new arms-limitation act with the Soviet Union, majority leader Robert Byrd (D. — W. Va) said Saturday.

Byrd doubted that the Senate would ratify a new SALT agreement without assurances that intelligence-gathering bases in Turkey could be relied upon to verify Soviet compliance.

"Turkey has very serious economic problems and I think the United States must increase its aid to Turkey," Byrd said.

"This is an issue that's going to be right up front" when the Senate takes up new strategic

arms limitation treaty, now in its final stages of negotiation, the West Virginian told a news conference.

The Democratic leader said Turkey deserves more U.S. support because it "is a democracy, is pro-Western and is strategically located."

"The ability of this nation to rely on bases in Turkey will be very important in any verification process," Byrd said.

"The loss of intelligence facilities in Iran emphasizes and increases the importance of intelligence facilities in Turkey," Byrd said.

"When we talk about SALT, assistance to Turkey is a vital component." He said this should include aid that would enable Turkey to revitalize its defense capability.

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DECOLONIZE ?

Even to those opposed to the Camp David agreements, the visit to Egypt and Israel by the President of the United States is not without some redeeming values. It has thrown into sharp relief the fact that Israel, a protégé of the United States, is actually a colonial power in the Arab world and that the United States, which supplies it with so much of its needs, is pleading with it to decolonize part of its new empire.

This is the message of President Carter's visit and his efforts to persuade the Israelis to return some of the occupied lands to the Arabs. But Israel has disregarded even his limited demands for concessions, thereby justifying the worst fears of the hardline Arab leaders that the Jewish state is not interested in a peaceful settlement. As long as it has the military superiority over the Arabs, which it receives almost free of charge, it won't budge an inch without enormous concessions by the other side and extortionist compensation by the United States.

One can, therefore, understand Carter's embarrassment in this situation. He wants a peaceful settlement in the region even if there were no presidential elections in the offing. We do not doubt his sincerity and concern for the Palestinians. But he is up against a wall of incredible Israeli obduracy that all American diplomacy cannot pierce without a massive shift in American public opinion about the ever increasing cost of Israel to American life and foreign policy.

Thus a real change in Israeli policy will come sometime in the future. The American people will become fed up with Israel and feel ashamed of supporting and bankrolling its imperialism in the Arab world. If this is too far fetched because of the facts of American life, the Arabs will have to depend on themselves and build a military capability strong enough to persuade the Israelis to talk more sensibly.

It would be sad to see Carter fail. He has tried hard and sincerely to nudge the Israelis out of their petrified position even in a limited way.

But it was the fault of the previous administration, really, which prevented the Egyptian and Syrian armies from scoring a decisive victory over Israel in the October War of 1973, by airlifting enough supplies to the Zionist state to turn the tide of battle. Had the Arabs been allowed to advance a little further into their own occupied territories, the Israelis would have realized the folly of continuing to occupy others' lands.

The American airlift of these October days has returned to haunt American policymakers now. The Israelis are demanding an exorbitant price from the United States for every inch of land they are requested to evacuate. That land could have been liberated by the Arab armies without cost to America. Now America has to pay dearly for very little, earning Israeli displeasure and failing to win Arab goodwill.

LAW AND ORDER

Ayatollah Khomeini has done well by reaffirming support for his own protégé, Mehdi Bazargan, when the situation in Iran threatened to go out of hand. But verbal support is not enough, the country is still in a state of turmoil with hundreds of overzealous groups rampaging through the streets of the main towns. They are arresting suspects, trying them and in some instances executing them. The result has been a situation of uncertainty leading to erosion of government power and falling prestige for the Ayatollah's own secular administration.

Unless there is strong government at the helm at this stage, it is quite possible that the situation will get worse with little prospect of improving in the near future. And once the government is discredited and openly challenged as is the case now, it would be easy for a large and well-organized group to cash in on the chaos and prepare the ground for another revolution.

The problem that faces the administration is plainly one of law and order with groups of people taking the law into their own hands in complete disregard of the government. No government, and no self-respecting premier can last long in such circumstances. It is not sure at this stage if Khomeini's exhortations to the self-styled courts and prosecutors will have much effect unless they are followed up by orders to the armed forces and police to put them into effect immediately.



"Stockholm says if we cool it we get a Nobel peace prize."

Deja vu for China

By David Holley
HONG KONG—

The motives and goals China purports for its invasion of Vietnam strikingly resemble Chinese motives and accomplishments in the brief Sino-Indian border war of 1962. The Chinese themselves have drawn the comparison, and Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping has predicted this war would be even shorter than the 33-day war with India.

But the real, unspoken reasons for the Chinese attack on Vietnam, the character of the current fighting and its international setting are all profoundly different from the 1962 conflict. Therefore, foreign analysts question whether China will find it as easy to pull out of Vietnam as it was to disengage from the fight with India.

Although China cited border incursions by the Vietnamese to justify what it called a "counter-attack," foreign analysts are united in the view that it is only a deep fear of the Soviet Union—a fear bordering on paranoia, many would say—that moved China to lash out so fiercely.

Tensions between China and Vietnam were raised close to the breaking point last year by the Nov. 3 signing of a Soviet-Vietnamese friendship treaty, and subsequent Chinese fears about the possible establishment of Soviet bases in Vietnam, and Vietnam's persecution and expulsion of its ethnic Chinese population. All these pressures built-up against a background of centuries of Sino-Vietnamese enmity.

Then came Vietnam's invasion of China's ally Cambodia, the quick fall of most of the

country to Vietnamese troops and the establishment of a puppet regime in Phnom Penh. Teng began to talk of "punishing" Vietnam, and China made careful preparations for war.

After a string of increasingly serious incidents involving border incursions by both sides, China struck in force on Feb. 17. Stating that its goal was only to "teach Vietnam a lesson," China announced that its troops would withdraw to their own side of the border as soon as that was accomplished.

That is precisely what China did in the month-long war with India 17 years ago. In two bursts of fighting, three weeks apart, Chinese forces demolished Indian defenses and set off fear in India that China might occupy India's eastern state of Assam. Then, just as suddenly, China announced a unilateral ceasefire and withdrew to its original positions.

"Astoundment almost blots out relief at the sudden Chinese decision," the "Times" of London said. Although the Chinese mini-war against India failed to produce a negotiated settlement of the festering border issue, it did lead to resigned acceptance in India of the status quo on the border, and boosted China's prestige among Third World nations.

Teng, presumably the man behind the move against Vietnam, was one of the top leaders responsible for decision-making in the war with India. He and the rest of the Chinese leadership appear to be hoping for a similarly short and clean action in Vietnam.

The Indian debacle was predictable on military and logistical grounds but Indian leaders had consistently refused to believe that the Chinese would fight.

Vietnam, like India but with better reason, may also have refused to believe that the Chinese would attack. In 1962 India was a pushover militarily for China, and had no international allies who could be expected to come to its rescue. But Vietnam today has a well-equipped, battle-hardened army of 615,000 plus a militia of 400,000. Soviet support and experience gained vanquishing two great powers, France and the United States.

Teng acknowledged this difference in a statement made recently to the president of Japan's Kyodo news service. Teng reportedly said that the border clash might last another 10 days or longer "because Vietnam is stronger than India." Whether the current fighting ends in less time than the 33-day war with India, Teng said, "depends on the other side."

While acknowledging Vietnam's military strength, Teng's statement exuded confidence that China could avoid getting bogged down in the quagmire that Vietnam proved to be for the French and Americans. Many foreign analysts here and in Bangkok, however, question whether China will find withdrawing from Vietnam to be that easy. Both the roughness of the terrain and the fluid nature of the battle lines mean that Chinese forces could take heavy losses as they retreat, these analysts say. —(LAT)

Behind closed doors

By William Claiborne
TEL AVIV—

Last month, when confidential U.S. State Department cables were disclosed alleging methodical Israeli use of torture against Palestinian prisoners, Israel began figuratively waving the red and white insignia of the Red Cross as evidence that the charges were unfounded.

There is persuasive evidence, however, that the system of checks and balances provided by the watchdog presence of the International Committee of the Red Cross is of limited effectiveness because of a combination of restraints. Some are rooted in the shortcomings of the Red Cross and some are imposed by its watchful hosts in the occupied territories — the Israeli army.

Israeli Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir, in a speech to the Knesset, used the Red Cross to rebut findings by the American Consulate in East Jerusalem that mistreatment of Arab detainees is "systematic." Tamir said the Red Cross last year investigated 1,300 cases of suspected abuse and found that in only 6 per cent of the cases was there reason for more detailed investigation.

"In all those cases which the International Red Cross had asked for closer investigation, no instances of maltreatment had been found," Tamir declared.

The statement struck even some of Tamir's colleagues in the Knesset as surprising — given the volatility of the Israeli-Arab relations in the occupied territories and the large number of anti-occupation suspects picked up for questioning daily — but it remains uncontested by the International Red Cross.

The Red Cross traditionally has sidestepped political imbroglios and rarely has made critical public statements of its Israeli hosts in order to protect its limited access to Palestinian prisoners.

Interviews with officials of the organization, former Palestinian detainees, West Bank human-rights activists and civil libertarians revealed a pattern of institutionalized restraints that often frustrate efforts by the Red Cross to prove or refute claims of torture or systematic abuse of prisoners.

The restraints, coupled with the sometimes confusing circumstances surrounding claims of mistreatment, compelled a Red Cross physician whose job here was to examine prisoners for evidence of brutality to return to

Geneva because he could not justify his presence.

While numerous factors have contributed to frustrating human-rights defenders in their attempts to conclusively prove or refute claims of torture, the most prominent among them appears to be Israel's insistence on holding security detainees incommunicado for 14 days before allowing Red Cross delegates to interview them.

When asked if the 14-day lapse hampers efforts to monitor Israeli treatment of prisoners, Petter Kung, head of the Red Cross mission here, replied, "I don't believe 14 days is an optimum situation, but I think it's quite a good step forward. Nothing is ideal."

West Bank human-rights activists who have worked closely with the Red Cross say, however, that the 14-day delay all but kills any hope of documenting specific allegations of torture beyond the uncorroborated testimony of the prisoner. "The most intensive period of interrogation comes within the first few days, when the authorities, understandably, are the most anxious about getting information fast. There is even an element of panic if they suspect they can head off a bombing, or whatever," said one civil libertarian in the West Bank.

Like others interviewed, he was reluctant to be quoted by name for fear of jeopardizing cooperative arrangements that the Red Cross maintains as part of a monitoring network in the occupied areas, or for fear of compromising the Red Cross' relationship with the Israeli government.

Palestinian detainees who have been released also said that if torture is inflicted by Israeli army interrogators, it invariably occurs within the first two or three days after an arrest.

"They know how long it takes for the marks to go away," said one Palestinian college student who was picked up in Jenin late last year and held for five days. He said that during that time he was interrogated continuously and subjected to torture, including being beaten on the genitals with a stick.

The student charged in an interview that his interrogators scrupulously avoided mistreatment that would leave lasting marks. Instead, he said, soldiers would sneak up behind him during questioning and hit him hard on both ears simultaneously with the palms of their hands.

As they have in almost every

instance of mistreatment, officials of the West Bank military governor's office denied those charges and repeated the government contention that recurring claims of torture are "groundless."

But the critics of the government's 14-day interview delay argue that it will be impossible to disprove the charges of widespread mistreatment until Israel allows the Red Cross to interview detainees during the first day of their incarceration.

The 14-day policy was an outgrowth of negotiations between the Red Cross and the Israeli government after 11 years of the Red Cross' being permitted, officially, to interview detainees after a 28-day interrogation period. In practice, the 28 days often was stretched to three or four months, sources said.

The Red Cross established its delegation here immediately after the 1967 war, primarily to deal with the repatriation of prisoners of war. As the occupation dragged on, it broadened its activity to cover the rights of "protected persons" under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits the use of "physical or moral coercion" against persons in occupied territories.

The prohibition applies to "murder, torture, corporal punishment, mutilation and... any other measures of brutality whether applied by civilian or military agents."

Israel, while a signatory to the Fourth Geneva Convention, does not recognize its applicability to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But it has allowed Red Cross delegation to monitor occupation activities.

Following 11 years of limited access to detainees after 28 days, and after the London "Sunday Times" published a detailed investigation of torture allegations, the government approached the Red Cross in October of 1977 and offered access to detainees after seven days, providing that a government witness was present.

The Red Cross refused the offer because of its worldwide policy against permitting government witnesses during interviews of prisoners. The army finally agreed to a 14-day period, with a suspension clause saying that permission may be denied for "imperative security reasons."

Kung of the Red Cross declined to disclose how many times the Israeli authorities have suspended the 14-day clause. —(WP)

Washington's defense debate

By William Flannery
WASHINGTON—

Only in the rarified atmosphere of Pentagon spending can a \$10 billion net increase in a budget be described as very austere.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown's comment notwithstanding, the Carter administration's defense budget for 1980 represents a major increase in spending and is the largest single increase of any departmental budget in the federal government.

Nor is this trend likely to change in the near future. Brown has forecast that the Pentagon's budget will reach an estimated \$178 billion in five years — an increase of nearly 44 per cent over the 1979 budget — in order to maintain the current structure of forces and modernization programs.

The current public debate over the 1980 budget and future trends in military spending has degenerated into a crude shouting match between liberals and conservatives over the amount being spent.

The liberals charge that the Pentagon's budget is too high and that President Carter has drafted widows, orphans and the poor to be his shock troops in the battle for the balanced budget.

The conservatives counter-charge that we are spending far too little. Defense must be our No. 1 priority, they argue: The Department of Health, Education and Welfare's budget is meaningless if Soviet marines land on New Jersey's beaches.

The fundamental problem is not that the United States is spending too little or too much.

The real issue is that the country has too many military pro-

grams and not enough money in the treasury to pay for all of them. The forecast increases in military spending are too low to buy all the new weapons, to maintain them and to operate and maintain them.

In the wake of the Vietnam War, the United States began much-needed arms modernization programs for the armed forces. Many of the projects were to overhaul and upgrade existing weapon systems. Simultaneously, major new weapons building programs got under way.

In the rush to modernize, marginal and questionable weapons were pushed along with the high priority projects. Inflation, poor procurement procedures and continual design changes have added up to large-scale cost overruns. —(NYT)

saudi press review

"Al-Nadwa" said that President Jimmy Carter could not avoid reneging on his promise to safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, although he had tried to show some concern for them. Besides, he was not right in saying that his Camp David accords were consistent with the United Nations resolution 242 which called for the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories, while the accords call for a phased withdrawal from Sinai only. There is no mention of withdrawal from the West Bank or the Golan Heights or anything else, the paper said.

It said that the accords which Carter is advocating are a vague, incomplete set of proposals and concluded that the Palestinian and Arabs behind them know only one way to regain their lands and rights — victory or martyrdom. The Palestinians are

not going to negotiate with the Israelis on the basis of the self-government plan enshrined in the accords.

As for attacking the Arab states which opposed the accords, the paper said President Carter is trying to drive a wedge between these states and Egypt. He is labelling as war mongers those who refuse to surrender to the Zionist enemy. He and his advisers should know better. We seek peace not war. It is those in Israel who plan for wars and expansion at the expense of others, the paper said.

President Carter's invitation to the Palestinian people to participate in the peace process is replete with injustice which we thought that the United States was incapable of, since it is known to be an advocate of liberty, justice and peace on editorial in "Al-Jezirah" said. How else can one interpret President

Carter's call to the Palestinians who have been shackled by the Israelis since 1948 while the United States gives Israel all kinds of deadly weapons to maintain its hegemony in Palestine? What kind of rights do the Palestinians expect from their enemy, who has usurped their lands, property and liberties? If Carter is so concerned about the rights of the Palestinian people, why hasn't he been able to extract one statement from Begin about them since Camp David?

The days are gone when people could be deceived by means of ambiguous diplomatic jargon. The Arab leadership which opposes this so-called peace process is quite capable of aborting any attempt at liquidating the rights of the Palestinian people or of maintaining the occupation of their lands.

President Carter will gain a

great deal if he pulls off an agreement between Egypt and Israel. But President Sadat will be the biggest loser if Carter fails, an editorial in "Al-Riyadh" said. It is obvious also that the three men, including Begin, had agreed in advance on the proposed treaty and that the visit to Egypt by Carter is a courtesy and an opportunity to sing Sadat's praises before the Egyptian people.

But Begin is sure to use this opportunity to dictate his terms blackmail the President and extort money and arms from the United States, knowing full well that Carter needs this agreement so badly that his political career would be seriously damaged without it.

A writer in "Al-Jezirah" that said the Arab states should help Uganda beat back the invasion by Tanzania. He said that for the past few

months Uganda has been attacked in an attempt by Tanzania to overthrow President Amin and reinstate the deposed Milton Obote. The aim is to put an end to the Islamic government of the country which cut off relations with Israel and supported the Palestinian struggle.

When Uganda captured Tanzanian territory it responded to appeals by African and Arab states and withdrew its troops immediately, the paper said.

One of the states which appealed to President Amin to withdraw his troops was Algeria but why is everybody silent now in the face of the Tanzanian invasion of Uganda? The United Nations is also silent, simply because the powers that control it are in favor of getting rid of President Amin, the writer said.

He called on the Arab states to hasten to the aid of Uganda and help it defeat the invaders from Tanzania.



Queuing up at traffic office (Oktan)

Fear and oppression continue to rule the streets of Kabul

By Thomas W. Lippman

KABUL — A Western resident of Kabul was describing the response he received when he visited his neighbor, an Afghan professor, to come to his house to watch a film.

"He said he couldn't do it, even after dark. He trusted me, he said, but he couldn't trust my servant not to report him."

That story encapsulated the atmosphere in the Afghan capital 11 months after the bloody coup that brought the pro-Soviet government of Prime Minister Nur Mohammed Taraki to power. By all accounts, the government, still trying to consolidate its grip on the country, rules through fear, arrest and suspension, discouraging contact with foreigners and suppressing dissent with a heavy hand.

At night, just before the 11 P.M. curfew enforced by the army, powerful spotlights play across the city as if to surprise observant elements on their furrounds. The streets are

nearly deserted well before curfew because, residents say, it is unwise to attract the attention of police patrols.

Unlike Marxist-ruled Ethiopia, which gave extensive publicity to its armed conflict with alleged counter-revolutionaries, the Taraki leadership claims there is no opposition and that all Afghans have supported the revolution from the beginning.

It is true that there is no counterpart here to the bloody gunfights and house-to-house searches with which the Addis Ababa government fought its foes at a comparable stage of the revolution. On the other hand, it is apparent that Taraki and his allies in the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan have spent much of their time since the overthrow of President Mohammed Dadoud last April purging potential rivals and dissenters.

The army, the civil service and the party itself have been stripped of prominent figures who

have been executed, jailed or sent into exile — so much so that experienced foreign diplomats say they do not know who is chief of staff of the army because there is hardly anyone still in uniform above the rank of major.

Politically unreliable intellectuals have been put out of the way, foreign residents report that scores of doctors, professors and lawyers are "sitting home," doing nothing and avoiding any contact that might arouse suspicion. So intense is the suspicion of Westerners that the director of the official news agency, whose approval is required before any dispatches can be sent abroad, refused to allow journalists who had just interviewed the foreign minister to sit at a table in his office to prepare their articles.

The government has moved swiftly against religious leaders who oppose what they see as the pro-Communist and atheistic tendencies of Taraki's party. In January, well-informed sources report, one of the leading religious

figures in Kabul, Ibrahim Mujadidi, was arrested along with several dozen relatives and friends, leaving other family members to carry on their opposition from exile across the border in Pakistan.

Shortly before that Hafizullah Amin, the foreign minister who is considered the second-ranking man in the government, issued a blunt warning to the religious community.

"These religious leaders who are busy with religious performances and do not act against the interest of the people and the revolution will be respected profoundly by us," he said. "But those who instead of serving the sacred religion of Islam use religion as a means to serve the enemies of the revolution will face repercussions."

Senior diplomats here say that forthright approach is typical. "They make no apologies," one ambassador said. "Virtue is defined as support of the revolution."

"This is a violent society

where scores are settled by killing," said another. "These people came to power on a wave of blood. They can't relax much."

Opponents of Taraki based in Pakistan describe his rule as a Stalinist dictatorship, ruling by brutality. The actual situation appears to be considerably more complicated.

Taraki and his supporters have acknowledged that their base of popular support was small when they seized power. An official history of last April's coup notes that it was engineered by a small group of army officers who subscribed to Taraki's theories and makes no claim that it was a popular uprising.

"They've been very frank about it," one source said. "They decided that if they wanted to wait until they had mass public support it might take 30 years, so they decided to take power first and then build their base."

The government's technique has been to combine purges of "feudal" elements left over from the Daoud government and the monarchy that preceded it with populist measures aimed at increasing the number of people indebted to the government and to the party.

Some cadres sent into the villages to preach the revolutionary program have been resisted, even killed, by Afghans hostile to what is seen as a pro-Communist, anti-religious regime dominated by the Soviet Union. The government has responded with swift punitive actions.

"Whenever you see a big demonstration in the press of demonstrations of popular support in some villages" a ranking diplomat said, "that means there's been an air strike there. They always respond with 110 per cent of what's necessary."

The combination of military reprisals against recalcitrant villagers, mass arrests in the cities and a sputtering campaign against an insurgency among tribesmen in the eastern provinces gives the impression that the Afghan leadership is embattled and struggling to survive, but experienced observers here say that is not necessarily the case.

They say the opposition, political and religious, is weak and fragmented and that repeated purges in the army and civil services have eliminated most potential sources of disloyalty. These observers also say that

some of the measures taken by the government to elicit popular acceptance appear to be succeeding, especially a large-scale land reform program launched in January.

"The class of people who owe something to this government is growing," a senior diplomat said. "They were trying to create a large number of people whose interests are tied up with those of the revolution, and the number of those who benefit is greater than the number of those who are hurt."

Diplomatic sources say there is deep skepticism about whether the government can enforce two of its decrees, abolishing usury and doweries, but that land reform is making headway. It is being run by the party, not by civil servants, again in a move to inspire party loyalty.

Foreign Minister Amin, asked recently about security measures in the capital, said they would be ended when the land reform is completed, probably this year.

About 200,000 families in a country of about 16 million people will receive parcels of land from the estates of big landowners, he said.

"There's no country in the world where land reform is going on so smoothly as here. When it is completed there will be no more need for any security measures," Amin said.

He made no claim, however, that there would be any liberalization of political life. Afghanistan is officially a one-party state and the press, economy and government are being molded into the service of that party.

In conversations after the recent kidnapping of U.S. Ambassador Adolph Dubois, Amin and police commander Daoud Taroun insisted that the country is completely secure. They denied the existence of any political or religious opposition groups, reflecting the theme adopted by Taraki in an assessment of the revolution's progress a few months ago.

"A complete security prevails throughout the country," he said. "Any plot hatched or effort made by the enemies among the armed forces was nipped in the bud. The morale among officers and soldiers of the armed forces is very high indeed. I defend the revolution under the leadership of my party with total gallantry, understanding, trust and confidence." —(WP)



BRITANNIA: A salon aboard Queen Elizabeth's royal yacht "Britannia." The vessel, which was used by the British monarch on her recent trip to the Gulf, is on display at the Jeddah Islamic Port through Monday, March 12.

A violin surprise for a damp Jeddah night

By James Buchan

JEDDAH — Robin Woodcock, the roving Australian violinist, wound up a two-week tour of Saudi Arabia on a damp night here last week with a recital at the British Embassy.

The March 7 concert was well received, as were Woodcock's earlier performances at the Aramco schools in the Eastern Province and at the Jeddah Prep and Continental schools. Only invading hordes of music-hating mosquitoes kept the encores down to a respectable two.

The unseasonable humidity in the air during the concert caused great difficulties of tuning for Woodcock's 18th century Galiano instrument. It even surprised Jeddah's resident pianist, Caroline Haffner, who accompanied Woodcock for most of the evening's performance.

"The keyboard was so damp when I sat down," she said afterwards, "that I thought one of the embassy servants had sweetly washed the piano for me."

The difficulties came to a head with the "Chaconne" of Bach's Partita No. 2 in D-Minor, which closed the first half of the program. Advance, it can be a nerve-racking piece for a listener — and presumably for a performer as well. Wednesday night showed how easily an original idea of order can shift into a glimpse of chaos.

The performers recovered with great professionalism and

the second half of the concert, which consisted of late 19th and 20th century works, was a delight. Three short pieces were played with particular panache — Kresler's "Liebesfreud," Sarasate's "Zapateado" dance, and the "Hora Staccato" by the Romanian Doina.

Haffner is a pianist of the quality no visiting performer to the Middle East could reasonably hope for, and the all-but-complete revision of the advertised program appears to have given her a more exciting part in the recital.

At one point in the performance, Haffner withdrew. Woodcock announced he would play a short piece called "Solitude," written for him by the Australian composer Peter Sculthorpe. He would, Woodcock said, accompany himself by whistling.

The audience sighed at what they feared was a depressing piece of artist's generosity — but not so. Woodcock's whistling voice is as remarkable as his violin's fluency, and the piece was not only bizarre but also intriguing. If performer feels he has more to say with a violin stuck under his chin, this is clearly the way to say it.

Woodcock is scheduled to continue his tour in London, the Netherlands and Paris. The next concert scheduled for Jeddah by the Jeddah Concert Committee is to be given by the London Music Group — a trio of piano, cello and clarinet — on March 21.

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Limb replantation becomes a viable form of surgery

By David Zimman

GARDEN CITY, New York — The recent operation on the severed leg of an 11-year-old girl on Long Island has put the medical spotlight on the little-known but rapidly advancing field of limb replantation.

It will take 18 to 24 months before doctors know if the girl, Elizabeth McFadden, will be able to walk on her restored leg, which was cut off 10 centimeters above her knee when she was run over by a train. But it is clear that limb replantation, once relegated to research curiosity, has now become a viable form of surgery.

The first successful case traces back only 17 years, when Dr. Roland A. Gant of Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital and others operated on a 12-year-old boy whose arm had been torn off near the shoulder in a railroad accident. Today, the patient, now 29, works as a truckdriver, using his restored arm to lift heavy loads. That historic operation served as a breakthrough, spurring other surgeons to try to restore ampu-

tated fingers, hands, arms and legs.

"Progress has been spectacular," says Dr. Avrom Daniller, a member of the limb replantation team at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx, N.Y. "From one case in 1962, we have a world experience of thousands of cases. It (limb replantation) is becoming routine in large centers in most industrialized nations, including China, which probably has the largest world experience."

With increased experience have come improved results. "Up to three or five years ago, doctors in international meetings were talking only about survival (of the restored limb)," says Dr. Julia K. Terzis, a consultant microsurgeon at Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. "Now functional recovery is the challenge."

Three factors govern the success of an operation, says Dr. Harry J. Buncke of San Francisco, a pioneer in replantation surgery. They are: a clean cut, quick refrigeration of the amputated part and timely restoration of blood flow to the severed

limb. A fourth factor is the age of the patient. "The younger the patient, the better the result, all things being equal," Buncke says.

Surgeons estimate that they are saving the severed limb or

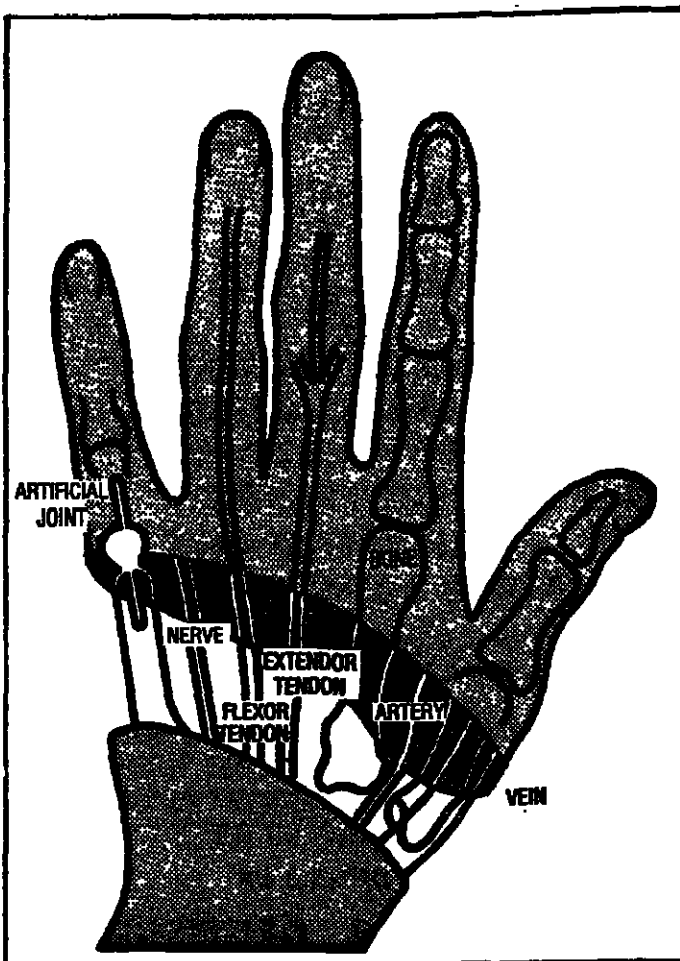
fingers of about 80 to 90 per cent of all cases undertaken. But the real question is how much use of the rejoined limb can the patient get. Restored limbs generally do not function as efficiently as the patient's original arm or leg. Terzis says. However, in many cases, surgeons report their patients regain perhaps as much as 75 per cent use of their mended limbs. Replanted limbs that have regained that much use can serve better than artificial limbs.

Still, Terzis says, the art is not perfected and she is careful not to oversell the operation. "You cannot promise function to patients because you don't know the outcome of nerve repair. The only thing I say is, 'I'm going to try my best. I have not seen anyone who didn't want me to try.'"

The breakthrough that made possible the rapid rise in limb replantation was the development of microsurgery. In the late 1950s, optical and medical firms began developing such precision instruments as operating microscopes (allowing magnification up to 20 times), eyeglasses fitted with special lenses that greatly magnify the viewing area and miniature surgical forceps, scissors and needles. These specialized tools enabled surgeons to rejoin the tiniest blood vessels and nerves, a task previously impossible even for the most skilled surgeon.

"The needles are finer than your hair," said Dr. Michael S. Mamakos, a plastic surgeon who was on the team that rejoined Elizabeth McFadden's leg. "The nylon sutures are gossamer in their texture and strength. In fact, when you tie a knot with them, you have to look at the knot to see that it is tight because you can't feel the tension. If you tug on it, you break it."

Replantation surgery is not for every doctor. Many of those who



do this type of surgery are plastic or vascular surgeons, hand surgeons, neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons who have gone on to do extra work in reconstructive microsurgery.

They must practice in the lab for months to acquire precision skills. And they must develop stamina. Operations can last eight, 10, even 12 hours.

Another problem stems from the relative infrequency of cases. In contrast to an open-heart surgeon who might do 200 to 300 operations a year, a replantation surgeon may do perhaps 10 or 20 procedures a year. Mamakos says he has done about 15 restoration operations in the past 18 months, most of them hand and finger cases. This is not a heavy enough workload to maintain expertise. So, to keep in practice, he works in the lab one day a week on the

arteries, veins and nerves of rabbits and rats.

The key to the success of replantation, experts say, is not the bone or vascular repair but the surgeon's ability to reconnect nerves. Rejoining severed bone, with the use of steel pins, is usually not a difficult procedure. Arteries and veins are relatively simple structures. Unless they have deteriorated, blood will flow through them again as soon as they are reconnected.

But a nerve is more complex and delicate. Like a telephone cable, it is made up of an outside scaffolding or protective sheath holding many strands of thin, spaghetti-like tubes. The tubes, the axons and their supporting cells, are the business part of the nerve, transmitting electrical impulses from the spinal cord. Once a nerve has been cut, the tiny tubular axons die. Only the

sheath remains alive beyond the amputation site.

"What happens then," explains Mamakos, "is that the nerve has to regenerate itself from the level of the injury through the whole length of empty scaffolding to the end of the limb. It takes a long time to regenerate. It grows only 1 millimeter a day or an inch a month. So the farther the injury is from the spinal cord—or the closer to the tip of the limb—the better the prognosis because the nerve has a shorter distance to grow from the injury to its termination."

Thus, repairs of finger injuries are more likely to result in fully regenerated nerves than are repairs to amputations of the wrist or elbow. What also complicates an arm or leg injury—in contrast to a finger amputation—is that the fingertips have nerves that perform only one function: sensation. The nerve in the arm or leg is a mixed nerve. It has fibers not only for sensation (sensory nerves) but to stimulate muscles (motor nerves).

"When you reconnect nerves after an amputation of the leg or arm," Mamakos says, "You are hoping to join a sensory nerve with another sensory nerve. A sensory nerve will work only if it is joined to another sensory nerve. The same is true of a motor nerve. The problem is they're so small. They all look the same. To make it more difficult, the many nerves are crossing and rejoining and recrossing every inch of the way. A nerve fiber in one location will not automatically be at the same location in the severed part. The result is you don't always know when you are joining a sensory nerve and a motor nerve."

Despite these difficulties, replantation surgeons think their specialty, now in its infancy, has made great progress and has vast potential. What would undoubtedly be an enormous breakthrough would be the use of cadaver limbs. In many cases, when the injury is a crushing one, the severed part is not reusable. Surgeons look forward to the day when it would be possible to use preserved hands, fingers and limbs in replantation. What makes cadaver banks



Dr. Michael Mamakos, wearing microscopic lenses, holds instruments used for limb replantation.

impossible now is the same phenomenon that put an end to most heart transplant surgery: the body's rejection mechanism. The body recognizes transplanted tissues as foreign. It mobilizes all its defenses to get rid of them. So a patient would ultimately reject a cadaver finger, arm or leg.

Another future hope—but one relegated to the realm of fantasy by most surgeons—is regeneration. Primitive animals like the salamander and tadpole can regrow their amputated body parts. However, the only things a human can regrow are hair and nails.

However, Dr. Harry Becker, who is doing research in regeneration at the Veterans Administration Hospital in

Syracuse, N.Y., says that scientists have produced, through electrical stimulation, some measure of regeneration in frogs and rats, animals that do not normally regrow their parts. Moreover, Becker says, in England, there are recent cases of spontaneous fingertip regeneration among young children who lost the end joint of their finger.

Carried to its ultimate conclusion, Becker says, the promise of regeneration—if it can be controlled—would be the ability to stimulate the regrowth of deadened body parts like a spinal cord, heart muscle or kidneys. "I have to caution that won't happen tomorrow," Becker says. "But research interest is mounting in this area." (Newsday)

Plan for the Paris hole

By Paul Webster

PARIS — With broad strokes of his pen, Jacques Chirac has mapped out two gigantic improvements for Paris, ending the 10 year old dispute over Les Halles and forcing through a super "white city" sports complex for the near deserted depots at Bercy.

The style of decision-making recalls the grand design days of Georges Pompidou. Chirac's mentor, whose heritage the mayor of Paris and Gaullist leader hopes to restore if his bid for the presidency is successful in 1981. As a Gaullist, he regretted last week that the late president's mass industrialization program had been halted and as mayor his plan for Les Halles is a direct complement to the giant masterpiece of the pre-Giscard era, the Pompidou Art Center.

President Giscard halted many of Pompidou's plans as

soon as he came to office five years ago, but the economic depression and the fantastic success of the Pompidou center have convinced Chirac that "big is best." Just two years old, the Pompidou center now claims to be the most popular museum in the world, counting 14 million visitors already.

The only French attraction that can compete is that other mammoth construction, the Eiffel Tower, which is 90 years old this year and still attracts more than 3 million people annually.

In outlining his project for the sprawling space left by the old central market, Chirac denied any desire to "monumentalize." But the end result will be the biggest pedestrian zone in Europe, stretching from the Place des Vosges to the Palais Royal. By 1983, Les Halles and the Pompidou center will be linked in a symbol of Chirac-Pompidou continuity. —(G)

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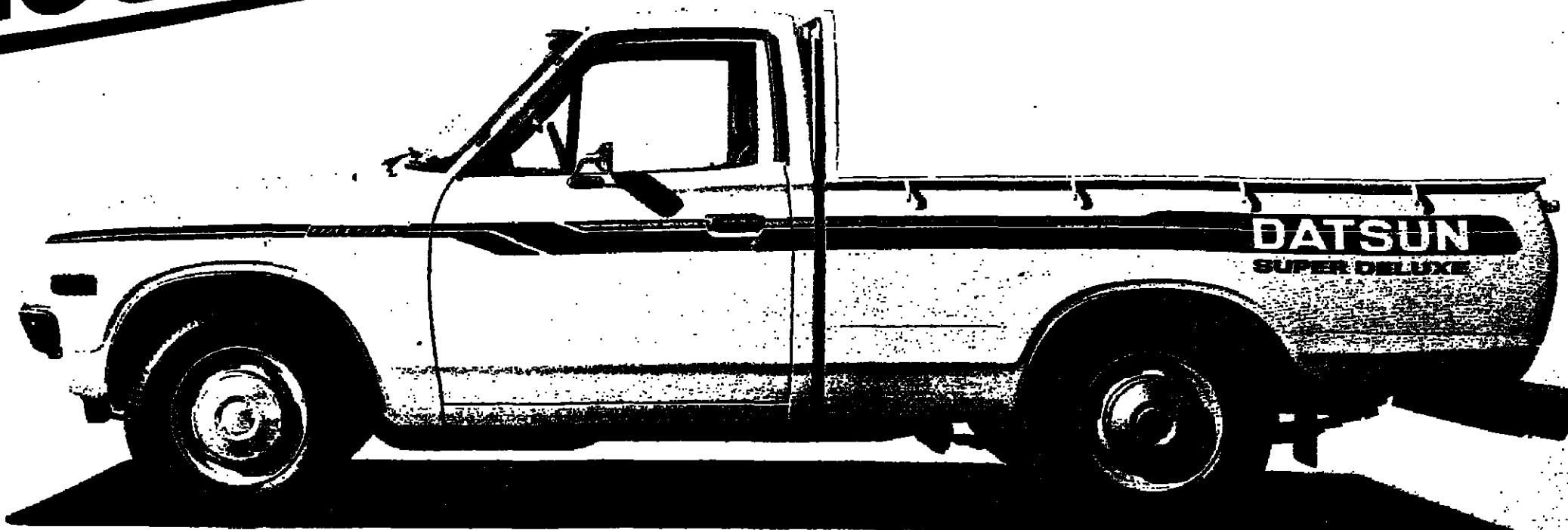
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2 MARCH 1979

Scales dip toward Peking

IOC says Chinas agree to meet ; Taipei denies it

LAUSANNE, March 11 (R) — Mainland China took a major step toward the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games as International Olympic Committee (IOC) officials prepared for the first face-to-face encounter of rival sports bodies from Peking and Taiwan later this month.

IOC President Lord Killanin, who has worked ceaselessly for four years to solve the China problem, was in a confident mood after announcing that his world body had achieved promises of round table discussions from both Chinese groups.

(But in Taipei, Taiwan Olympic Committee President Shen Chia-Ming Sunday said he had not received any notification from Lord Killanin, AP reports.)

"Certainly we haven't agreed to anything," Shen said. "We won't sit down and talk with Chinese Communist sports officials."

(Other sports officials in Taipei said Lord Killanin did not know the Chinese Communist tricks and has fallen into Peking's trap.)

Song Zhong (Sun Chung),

secretary general of the mainland's All-China Sports Federation, presented Peking's formal application for re-recognition of the Chinese National Olympic Committee to the executive board Saturday.

It was the first formal meeting since China withdrew from the IOC in 1958 because the committee also recognized Taiwan, seat of the Chinese Nationalist Government.

Lord Killanin's communique came as a shock to observers who expected the China deadlock to drag on for another year, perhaps delaying Peking's return until after Moscow.

The IOC president announced that Song stated China was prepared for discussions with the representatives of the Taiwan National Olympic Committee.

A greater surprise was the IOC claim that the Taiwan committee had informed Lance Cross, the New Zealand executive board member who went there in January at the head of an investigating commission, that it was ready to take part in round table talks.

IOC sources said this promise had been made by Taiwan Olympic officials, including Henry Hsu, the IOC member in Taiwan since 1970.

There were, however doubts in IOC circles as to whether the Republic of China government would really permit the Taiwan delegation to meet the Communists, even under IOC mediation. Shen's statement confirmed these doubts.

IOC sources said that any move by Taiwan authorities to pull out of the round table meetings would probably be regarded by a majority of IOC members as giving up their right to continue recognition.

Supertest play ends in shower of rain, bottles

BARBADOS, March 11 (AP) — Frustrated by the rain, a slippery outfield and the umpires, a section of a sellout crowd of 14,000, at Kensington Oval here threw dozens of bottles onto the outfield on the second day of the World Series Cricket Supertest between the West Indies and Australia.

A heavy shower halted play 40 minutes into the game.

In that time, Australian overnight batsman Ray Bright and Rod Marsh took their team's first innings total from 240 for six to 254 without further loss.

Conditions improved but the umpires were worried about the outfield. A spectator walked across the field, gesticulating and demanding a resumption.

The crowd cheered and when two policemen moved him off, the spectators began throwing bottles.

Police eventually restored order. There were no injuries or arrests.



ROUT: Pakistani fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz tries to throw down the wicket of Peter Sleep during Sunday's rout of the Australian innings.

Brittle Aussie line-up snaps, all out for 155

MELBOURNE, March 11 (Agencies) — Australia's batsmen failed miserably in the first cricket Test against Pakistan here Sunday.

After its bowlers had done well to dismiss the powerful Pakistanis for only 155, the Brittle Australian line-up again podged — this time out at the close of the second day.

Australia started solidly and was 52 for one at lunch but then pace bowler Imran Khan tore through the middle order, finishing with four wickets for 26.

Only test newcomer Davenall Whatmore put up significant resistance, and he spent nearly four hours scoring 43.

The Australians were hit by the loss of opener Graeme Wood, who was forced to retire hurt for five with a sprained wrist — after running into fellow-opener Andrew Hilditch. He returned at the end of the innings but had not added to his score when Whatmore was finally lbw to Sarfraz Nawaz.

The Pakistanis are playing two Tests against Australia, who recently went down 5-1 to England, mainly because of their poor batting.

A crowd of 12,000 spent much of the day slow-handclapping the Australian innings — a pedestrian performance lived up in the last 20 minutes of play by an incident involving Australian fast bowler Rodney Hogg.

Hogg stormed off the field, crashing down his stumps with his bat, after being run out off a no ball.

Pakistan's captain, Mushtaq Mohammad and Australian captain, Graham Yallop convened a hasty press conference when play ended.

The Australian skipper dubbed the dismissal "technically correct but morally wrong", while Mushtaq said the run out decision was the right one.

Ashe victory gives U.S. 4th straight World Cup

NEW HAVEN, March 11 (AP) — Arthur Ashe posted a convincing 6-4, 6-1 victory over Phil Dent Saturday afternoon to give the U.S. team its fourth consecutive World Cup title.

Ashe, who won the opening match handily, kept Dent on the run, outlasting the Australian, six years his junior.

The United States leads the best-of-seven series, 4-0, and with Ashe's victory has tied the 10-year competition at 5-5. The Americans have been the dominant team in recent competition, winning 21 of the last 22 matches in the past four meetings.

In a doubles match following the Ashe victory, Brian Gottfried and Dick Stockton defeated Ross Case and Geoff Mascers, 7-6, 6-3.

Two final matches were scheduled for Sunday, and the Aussies must be gloomy about a repeat of their shutout.

In other tennis, in Philadelphia, fourth-seeded Wendy Turnbull of Australia, playing



Arthur Ashe with a sore shoulder, rallied to defeat Rosie Casals, 6-2, 6-3, Saturday to reach the final round of the \$125,000 — And in Sao Paulo, Hank Pfister of California, out-battered Roscoe Tanner of Tennessee, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, Saturday night and moved to the finals of the \$125,000 Grand Smash Cup tennis tournament.

Palpable hope of double

Dalglish edges Liverpool into F. A. Cup semifinals

LONDON, March 11, (R) — European champion Liverpool beat a solitary path into the semi-finals of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup Saturday as a brilliant goal by Scottish International Kenny Dalglish put paid to holder Ipswich.

While Liverpool was winning, 1-0, the two other quarterfinal ties ended in 1-1 draws — Manchester United rallying to hold Tottenham Hotspur after Argentine World Cup star Osvaldo Ardiles had given the London side an early lead and Third Division Shrewsbury holding Wolverhampton Wanderers of the First Division.

The fifth round tie between West Bromwich Albion and Southampton also ended in a 1-1 stalemate and the two First Division sides meet again in Monday in an attempt to settle who meets Arsenal in the quarterfinals.

Liverpool, with the First Division title at its mercy, slashed the odds against them becoming only the fifth team to achieve the League and Cup double.

Ipswich was a little unlucky, the only difference between the two sides being Dalglish's lethal finishing. His 53rd minute goal was a superb effort as he shrugged off a defender, turned in a flash and rifled the ball home from the narrowest of angles.

Ardiles, whose midfield scheming helped transform Argentina into world champion last June, has been given a more forward role by Tottenham in recent matches. Last Saturday the switch resulted in two goals against Derby county and a diving header in the 18th minute from Steve Perryman's cross.

But Manchester United snuck to its task in a match that overflowed with excitement for a capacity crowd of 51,800 and was rewarded with a 60th minute equalizer by Mike Thomas after Tottenham failed to clear a corner.

Shrewsbury's ambition of

becoming the sixth Third Division side to make the semi-finals remained intact — but only just.

When Bill Rafferty shot Wolverhampton into the lead after 80 minutes it seemed all over for Shrewsbury but then Peter Daniel fouled Paul Maguire in the 86th minute and Ian Atkins converted the penalty.

Southampton, who next Saturday competes in the League Cup final at Wembley, was a goal up after 20 minutes at West Bromwich, Phil Boyer supplying the finishing touch to Steve Williams' cross. But Ally Brown equalized just before halftime and near misses had to suffice for goals in the second-half.

With west Bromwich involved in the cup, Arsenal and Leeds United took the opportunity to steal ahead of them in the League.

Arsenal moved into third place with a 2-0 win over Bristol City and Leeds went fourth after winning, 1-0, at Derby.

Everton stayed in second place but dropped a home point to League champion Nottingham

Forest, who must have been pleased that with so many injuries it could still emerge with a 1-1 draw. George Telfer put Everton in front with a glancing header after five minutes. Full-back Colin Barrett answered for Forest with a solo effort after 18 minutes.

Chelsea found no relief from its relegation worries as it went down, 2-0 at Norwich after losing its Yugoslav goal-keeper Peter Borota in the 17th minute. Borota, in only his second match for Chelsea, left the field with blood streaming from a head wound after saving at the feet of an attacker.

He needed six stitches in the wound.

Rangers, Hibernian and Partick Thistle made it to the semi-finals of the Scottish Cup but Celtic, which has won the competition a record 25 times, must replay Aberdeen after a 1-1 draw.

Rangers made a blistering start against Dundee, racing into a 4-0 lead. Dundee staged a spirited rally but still lost, 6-3.

British football results

LONDON, March 11 (AP) — Results of English and Scottish soccer matches played Saturday afternoon:

English F.A. Cup — fifth round	
WBA	1 Southampton 1
English F.A. Cup — sixth round	
Ipswich	0 Liverpool 1
Tottenham	1 Man. Utd. 1
Wolves H.	1 Shrewsbury 1

Scottish F.A. Cup — fifth round	
Aberdeen	1 Celtic 1
Dumbarton	0 Partick 1
Hibs	2 Hearts 1
Rangers	6 Dundee 3

English League Division One	
Arsenal	2 Bristol C. 0
Birmingham	0 Coventry 0
Derby C.	0 Leeds 1
Everton	1 N. Forest 1
Middlesbrough	2 Villa 0
Norwich C.	2 Chelsea 0

Scottish league Premier Division	
Motherwell	0 St. Mirren 3
Dundee Utd.	4 Morton 1

Division Two	
Bristol R.	1 Leicester 1
Burnley	1 Preston 1
Cambridge U.	0 Notts 2
C.	1 Cardiff 2
Newcastle	1 Charlton 2
Millwall	4 Fulham 0
Palace	0 Luton 2
Orient	1 Sheffield U. 0
Stoke C.	0 Sunderland 3
Oldham	0 West Ham 0
Brighton	0 Wrexham 2
Blackburn	1

Division Two	
Albion R.	1 D'ne A. 1
Alloa	3 Falkirk 3
Be'erwick R.	1 Q' Park 1
E. Stirling	0 E. Fife 1
Forfar	0 St. Mirren 0
M'bank	0 Brechin 3
St. Johnstone	2 C'beath 4
Bristol R. 1	Leicester 1
Burnley	1 Preston 1
Camb. U.	0 Notts C. 1
Cardiff	2 Newcastle 1
Charlton	2 Millwall 4
Fulham	0 Palace 0
Luton	2 Orient 1
Sheffield U.	0 Stoke C. 0
Sunderland	3 Oldham 0
West Ham	0 Brighton 0
Wrexham	2 Blackburn 1

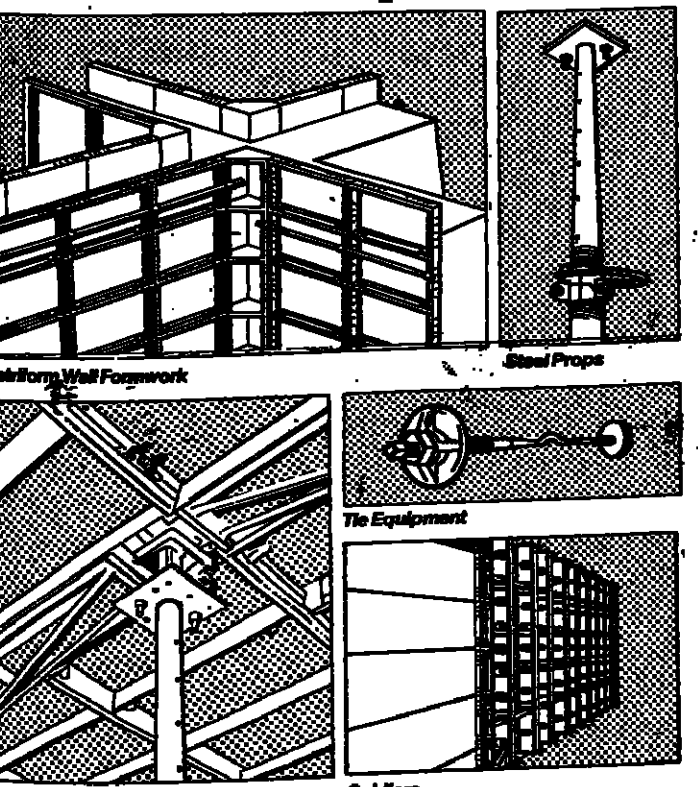
Division Three	
Blackpool	0 Plymouth 0
Brentford	6 Chester 0
C'field	5 Tranmere 2
Exeter	0 Watford 0
G'ham	2 Oxford 1
Hull	4 Bury 1
Lincoln	1 Southend 1
Peterbro'	2 Swansea 0
Swindon	0 Carlisle 0
Walsall	0 Sheffield Wed. 2

Division Three	
Blackpool	0 Plymouth 0
Brentford	6 Chester 0
C'field	5 Tranmere 2
Exeter	0 Watford 0
G'ham	2 Oxford 1
Hull	4 Bury 1
Lincoln	1 Southend 1
Peterbro'	2 Swansea 0
Swindon	0 Carlisle 0
Walsall	0 Sheff. W. 2

Division Four	
Aldershot	3 Crewe 0
Barnsley	1 Newport 0
B'mouth	1 Halifax 1
Hereford	0 Grimsby 1
H'field	0 B'ford C. 0

Division Four	
Aldershot	3 Crewe 0
Barnsley	1 Newport 0
B'mouth	1 Halifax 1
Hereford	0 Grimsby 1
H'field	0 B'ford C. 0

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But Nyambui stands out Wildcats edge Miners at NCAA

DETROIT, Michigan, March 11 (AP) — Villanova's swift mile relay team won the final running event Saturday and captured its third title in the NCAA indoor track and field championships, edging Texas-El Paso by one point despite victories in the mile

and two-mile by the Miners' Suleiman Nyambui.

The Miners' chances of repeating as champion and winning their fifth title in the past six years were thwarted in the two-mile relay when they were disqualified after finishing second.

Nelson, 6 years winless, gets 4-shot Florida lead

LAUDERHILL, Florida, March 11 (AP) — Larry Nelson, gunning for his first victory in six years of pro golf, birdied three holes in a row on the way to a five-under-par 67 that lifted him into a four-stroke lead Saturday in a third round of the \$300,000 Jackie Gleason Invitational classic.

Nelson, 31, a consistent money-winner and a member of the PGA tour's policy board, had a 54-hole total of 203, 13 shots under par on the 7,127 year Invagary Country Club Course.

Grier Jones, who led this tournament a year ago until Jack Nicklaus birdied the last five holes, and Hale Irwin shared second at 207.

Jones shot a 59 and Irwin, who Friday set the course record with a 62, went 10 strokes worse to par 72.

And on the women's tour Saturday in Los Angeles, Hollis Stacy, winner of the Women's U.S. Open for the past two years, withstood a challenge by defending champion Nancy Lopez and extended her lead to two strokes after Saturday's third round of the \$100,000 sunstar classic.

Stacy, who turns 25 next Friday, Carded a one-under-par 71, giving her a 54-hole score of 209, seven under par over the 6,268-year, par 37-35 Rancho Park Golf Course.

The 22-year-old Lopez, who captured nine Ladies Professional Golf Association tournaments last year but is yet to win in 1979, moved into second place at 211 by firing a 70 Saturday.

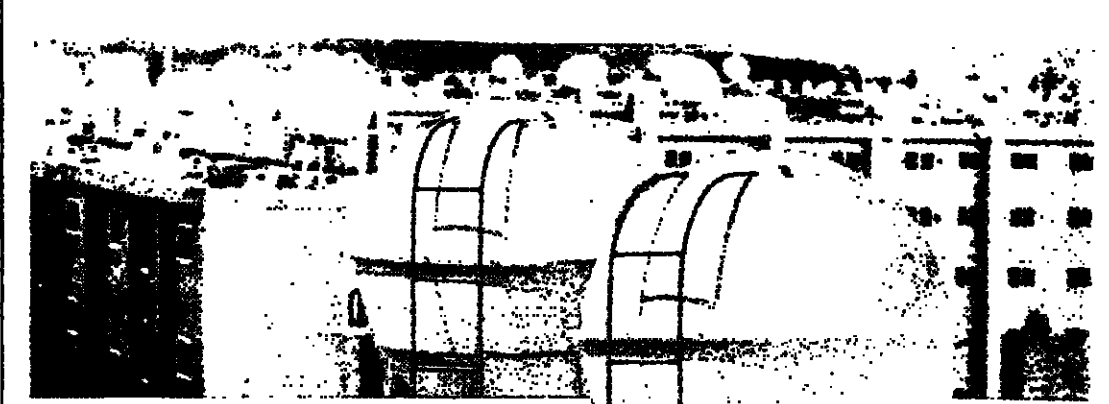
In addition to the mile relay, the Wildcats picked up points on victories by Don Paige in the 1,000, Anthony Tufariello in 600, the 2-3 finish of Sydney Maree and Amos Korir in the mile, and a third in the distance Medley.

Despite his team's bitter loss, the 25-year-old Nyambui, a freshman, was the meet's individual standout. He won the two-mile handily in 8:37.87, then about one hour later, came back and took the mile in a meet record time on 3:57.89.

Paige and Maryland sophomore Renaldo Nehemiah also set meet records.

The slender Paige, a junior, won his second straight NCAA indoor 1,000-yard title in 2:07, two-hundredths of a second faster than the previous mark set by his former teammate Mark Belger in 1976.

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Conference says

Graft quicksand of aid to poor

MANILA, March 11 (R) — A major conference on improving the lot of the world's poorer countries appeared Sunday to have brushed under the carpet one of the serious and embarrassing problems hindering development — corruption.

Delegates to the 35th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) have spent the past week calling

for more self-reliance, more money from donor countries, an end to trade barriers and faster transfer of technology and skills from the richer to the poorer nations.

But at the midway stage of the two-week conference, officials said Sunday they have skirted round the problem of corruption and how to end it.

"Donor countries and the United Nations bodies work-

ing in developing countries are well aware that one of the most serious problems hampering development is corruption. So are recipient countries. But no one seems prepared to discuss it publicly," one ESCAP official said.

One suggestion made privately in the conference lobbies has been the establishment of an international supervisory body to which offi-

cials could appeal in confidence when they find out about corruption involving aid programs.

But it is questionable how effectively such an agency would work, and few officials are surprised that the question of corruption has not been raised publicly.

U.N. officials involved in aid projects say they can do little about it even when they find that funds have been overpriced, that funds and equipment have been siphoned off into the hands of local politicians.

An official complaint might be turned around and thrown back as an accusation of interference in a country's internal affairs.

No agency or donor government would want to insult a recipient country by publicly demanding assurances that there will be no misuse of funds or by making the automatic presumption that there will be, the officials point out.

But some countries and agencies have more stringent monitoring of their funds and theoretically can cut off aid if they believe it is being wasted.

An official recalled a case in one country where the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was given an obviously inflated bill for digging make-shift toilets. There was little the agency could do.

Officials point out that if aid is cut off they may only compound the problem and do nothing to advance the people they are trying to help.



HERE TO STAY: Cars line up in the Geneva Motor Show. A study by a U.S. government agency asserts that, despite energy and other related problems, the use of automobiles will increase in the foreseeable future.

U.S. study sees car use growing despite hitches

WASHINGTON, March 11 (AP) — Serious problems with automobile transportation will increase throughout this century despite projected improvements in fuel efficiency, pollution control and safety, a U.S. government study asserts.

The Congressional Office of Technology Assessment Saturday released a report saying that if present policies go unchanged, fuel shortages, congestion and other problems will force future change.

"Because of energy, environmental, safety and economic considerations, further changes in both the characteristics and the use of the automobile transportation system will be necessary to minimize adverse impacts on society and the economy," the report said.

The assessment office, an agency that advises the U.S. Congress on technical matters, said automobile fuel consumption could peak and begin to fall by the mid-1980s despite more cars and continued increases in miles driven. This could come when smaller, more efficient cars become a large part of the fleet on the road, it said.

However, the report said fuel supply restrictions could change this.

"The implications of this potential supply shortage are profound and pose a serious threat to our continued reliance on the automobile as the predominant mode of personal transportation," the report said.

Plessey, Shell get different forecasts

LONDON, March 11 — This week we look at the investment potential of two major U.K. stocks, which reported trading results last week. Shell and Plessey, with sharply differing investment outlooks.

Plessey, a major electronics firm, is a good example of one type of forecast. The market was undoubtedly disappointed with its pre-tax profits of £8.8 million and this appears to have colored analysts' views of the year as a whole.

We are a little more optimistic than many in the market but nothing which has happened recently has done much to relieve our basic reservations about the long-term outlook for the company.

In essence, the problem is that the company's present operations are earning insufficient revenues in the way of profits of cash flow to finance the massive investment required to develop the excellent technologies to which the company has access.

In fact, the performance in

the company's third quarter (the three months ending 1 December) was not too bad without the labor problem and adverse currency movements which cost the company some £1.1 million.

Turning to Shell Transport and Trading, the investment outlook seems much more exciting. The shares have risen strongly since September 1977 and are now into no high ground at 660p.

The company's results have confirmed recent evidence of remarkable turnaround in its European downstream market and this, together with dividends of 77p per share gross helped, by British legislation have acted to reinforce a ready strong price trend.

The general improvement manifested in a number of Shell's European downstream markets last year appears to have continued in the fourth quarter and it is clear that this trend has accelerated since the beginning of 1979.

Supplied by Rowe Rudd and Co.

Mexico's oil exports could reach 1m b/d by year's end

MEXICO CITY, March 11 (AP) — Mexico could export million barrels of crude oil a day at \$15.38 a barrel by the end of the year, according to a Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) internal document published Saturday. However, oil company officials could not be reached for comment on the information.

The respected newspaper, "Uno Mas Uno," claimed it obtained "an analysis of the international oil market and Mexico's position within it, pre-

pared by the Pemex agency in New York City and its international consultants."

The newspaper said the document stated "the constant dynamics of expansion of production will inevitably result in achieving production goals a year ahead of time," predicting production of a million barrels of oil for export before 1980.

The article said the document was addressed to the management of the export section of

Pemex and was completed in February.

"Mexico will be in a position to negotiate the best prices in the world, just below that of oils from the North Sea, Venezuela and the Mediterranean," the article quoted the document.

"Mexico will increase its price per barrel to \$14.64 in April, to \$14.97 for the third quarter and to \$15.33 by the end of the year," the newspaper quoted the document as saying.

Saudi Arabian Government Tenders

Authority	Description	No. of Tender	Price SR	Closing Date
* Directorate of Education, Al-Jauf	Building of seven rural schools	98/99	300	Mar. 31
* Directorate of Agriculture and Water, Western Province	Re-invests tenders for drinking water network in Mastura town on Medina highway		1000	Mar. 13
* Ministry of Communications	Building of a 3-km long road stretch on Dajana highway in Jizan district		2000	Mar. 26
* Directorate of the National Guard	Constructing of two buildings in Riyadh	7-98/99	6000	Apr. 1
* Municipality of Al-Khobar	Sanitation of Al-Khobar town and surrounding areas for one year		1000	Apr. 7
* Ministry of Agriculture and Water	Drilling of two ordinary wells in Wadi Beni Kabir, two in Al-Khaira Al-Hazem and one in Mahdara (Baha region)	2/1	1500	Mar. 17
* " " "	Drilling of one ordinary well each in Qara Zabr, Qara Al-Sifr Tabraq Al-Wahda (Baha region)	3/1	1500	Mar. 18



PORTS AUTHORITY

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SHIP MOVEMENTS UP TO THE MORNING OF CHANGES PAST 24 HRS.

Vessels	Name of Ship	Agent	Type of cargo	Arrival Date
5	RONNE BURG	KANOO	GEN/REEFER/H. LIFT	11/3/1979
6	AMBER	KANOO	GENERAL	24/2/1979
10	SAJO	ORRI	LOADING UREA	7/3/1979
11	SCANDINAVIA	BARBER	BARYTES ORE IN-BULK	6/3/1979
12	SYRA	KANOO	RICE/GENERAL	10/3/1979
13	GOLDEN VENTURE	ALSAADA	STEEL	4/3/1979
15	GOLDENFELS	ALREZA	GENERAL	10/3/1979
16	MOUNT OLYMPUS	G.M.S.	GENERAL/STEEL	4/3/1979
18	DESPINA-ONE	U.E.P.	C.CEMENT IN BAGS	4/3/1979
19	EASTERN ENERGY	SORASIA	C.CEMENT IN BAGS	7/3/1979
21	EASTERN WAVE	ALREZA	BULK CEMENT	4/3/1979
22	SEA SPEED	GOSABI	RO-RO/CONTS	11/3/1979
28	YUNG FONG LU	L.A.C.C.	GENERAL/CONTS	5/3/1979

2-Recent Arrivals

Vessels	Name of Ship	Agent	Type of cargo	Arrival Date
5	SYRA	KANOO	RICE/GENERAL	10/3/1979
6	BARGE QN-115	BARBER	STEEL BARS	10/3/1979
10	SEA SPEED	L.A.C.C.	RO-RO/CONTS	11/3/1979
11	AMERICA	ALREZA	GENERAL	10/3/1979
12	GOLDEN FELS	KANOO	GENERAL/REEFER/H. LIFT	11/3/1979

3-Vessels Expected With in 24 Hours

Vessels	Name of Ship	Agent	Type of cargo	Arrival Date
1	TELLUS	GULF	GENERAL	11/3/1979
2	GOLDEN STAR	ORRI	AL QURASHI	11/3/1979
3	SEA TRAIN	ORRI	ORRI	11/3/1979
4	ROTTERDAM	ORRI	ORRI	11/3/1979
5	IAL SEA	ORRI	ORRI	11/3/1979
6	FORTUNE	ORRI	ORRI	11/3/1979

4-Tonnages Discharged (Freight Tons): 28,626

5-WAITING TIME: NIL

Note: Importers having goods on the above mentioned ships should complete their formalities as soon as possible. For any inquiries please contact the Shipping Agents.

U.S. magazine honors Swissair

SPECIAL TO ARAB NEWS
NEW YORK, — The U.S. trade magazine "Air Transport World" has selected Swissair as its "Airline of the Year — 1978," Swissair officials announced recently.

The magazine lauded the Swiss carrier for "its consistent technical and financial excellence through the years."

It cited the airline's role as a "launching customer of several airplane programs," adding that Swissair was among the first carriers to fly new versions of the McDonnell Douglas DC-9 and the European Airbus A300.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Opening Sunday	SAMA rate	Cash	Transfer
U.S. Dollar	3.36	3.37	3.37
Pound Sterling	6.85	6.90	6.90
Deutsche Mark	1.82	182.50	182.00
Swiss F	2.01	202.00	202.00
French F	0.79	79.00	79.00
Italian Lira (1000)	—	4.05	4.05
Lebanese Lira (100)	—	108.00	107.25
Syrian Lira (100)	—	80.00	86.50
Egyptian Pound	—	4.52	4.80
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	12.30	12.25
Jordanian Dinar	—	11.35	11.35
Emirates Dirham (100)	—	87.75	87.75
Qatari Riyal (100)	—	87.75	87.75
Bahraini Dinar	—	8.77	8.77
Iranian Riyal (100)	—	41.00	—
Iraqi Dinar	—	9.45	—
Yemeni Riyal (100)	—	74.00	74.00
Moroccan Dirham (100)	—	80.00	88.25
Indian Rupee (100)	—	—	41.75
Pakistani Rupee (100)	—	33.00	34.30
Gold kg	—	26,200	—
10 Tolas bar	—	3,080	—
Silver kg bar	—	800	—
Japanese yen (100)	1.64	—	—
Canadian dollar	2.84	—	—
Belgian franc (10)	1.14	—	—
Dutch guilder	1.68	1.69	1.69
Italian Lira (100)	0.40	—	—

SAMA rates announced by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, based on average rates on the London money market and the official price of the U.S. dollar.

Cash and transfer rates supplied by Al-Rajhi Company for currency Exchange and Commerce, Gabel St., Jeddah.

SAUDI ARABIA LINKED TO WORLD MARKETS

Saudi Research & Investment Limited announces the opening in Jeddah of a service which puts Saudi Arabian investors, and expatriates, in round-the-clock contact for the first time with the London Stock Exchange and all key financial centres.

A direct two-way teleprinter link, via the London offices of Rowe Rudd & Co. Limited, enables buying and selling orders to be transmitted all over the world at any time.

Other services include international investment advice; complete portfolio management; and dealings in gold, diamonds, fine art, commodities, and property.

Contact Derek Dyer, Investment Manager
SAUDI RESEARCH & INVESTMENT LIMITED
Ground Floor, Binladin Building
Medina Road, Jeddah, P.O. Box 6474
Telephone: Jeddah 53908

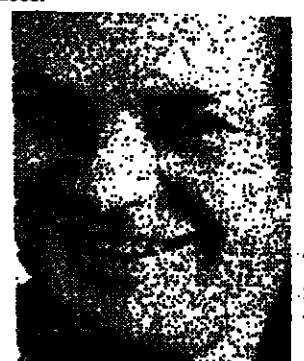
British financial expert will visit Kingdom soon

JEDDAH, March 11 — Investment analyst Harry Brown, an authority in the field of providing financial advice to British expatriates, will visit the Kingdom later this month.

Brown, managing director of Expatriate Financial Advisors Ltd., will be in Jeddah from March 17 to 22. Saudi Research and Investment Co. has announced.

He will both lecture at seminars conducted by Saudi Research and Investment and be available for individual financial counselling. Those wishing to see him are invited to call Derek Dyer at 53908.

Brown is an expert in various laws, regulations and fiscal practices.




Harry Brown



PORTS AUTHORITY JEDDAH ISLAMIC PORT

SHIP MOVEMENTS UP TO THE MORNING OF 11TH MARCH 1979.

1-VESSELS	DISCHARGING	BERTH	VESSEL	AGENT	CARGO	ARR. DATE
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1	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	MALDIVES	—	INDUSTRY	O. TRADE	TEA/SPICES	10/3/1979
4	ABUL WAFIA	—	—	S.E.A.	GENERAL	10/3/1979
5	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	—	—	—	—	—	—
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10	THOMAS NELSON	—	—	A.E.T.	LUB. OIL/PIPS	10/3/1979
11	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	—	—	—	—	—	—
13	LAODONG	—	—	ALWANI	REBAR	8/3/1979
14	PELLIPPA	—	—	RED SEA	GEN/STEEL/CONTS.	8/3/1979
15	LUCHANG	—	—	ORRI	SORGHUM/MAIZE/TEXTILES	7/3/1979
16	—	—	—	—	—	—
17	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	ODYSSEUS	—	—	ROLACO	BULK CEMENT	28/2/1979
19	LOUIS L.D.	—	—	AL SABAH	BULK CEMENT	7/3/1979
20	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	ELINI 2	—	—	A.A.	BGD. CEMENT	10/3/1979
22	ELI 2	—	—	S.A.M.A.	BGD. CEMENT	8/3/1979
23	HELENAS SAUDI 1	—	—	—	ACCOMMODATION SHIP	—
24	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—
26	LA ROCHELLE	—	—	ALGEZIRAH	CONTAINERS	10/3/1979
27	EMMY BRITANNIA	—	—	KANOO	COURTESY VISIT	10/3/1979
28	ISMS ACTIVE	—	—	KANOO	COURTESY VISIT	10/3/1979
29	DESPINA K	—	—	O.C.E.	GENERAL	8/3/1979
30	SALONAE	—	—	ATTAR	CONTS/PIPS/GEN.	10/3/1979
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33	GELBIE	—	—	STAR	BANANAS	10/3/1979
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**INDUSTRIAL
GASES PRODUCTION
CAN MAKING
SHIPBUILDING
HONDA PRODUCTS
YANMAR PRODUCTS**

ABDULLAH HASHIM ESTS.

JEDDAH	MECCA	RIYADH	DAMMAM
32065-32411	25603	28032-23592	24720-24730

EXCHANGE RATES AND LONDON GOLD	اسعار العملات والذهب
LONDON	NEW YORK

March 9

Range

March 9

USA

12,908-13,008

STC

2,480-2,490

Canada

2,410-2,410

BYFC

29.35-29.35

France

8,750-8,750

LAN

84.50-84.60

Belgium

59.90-59.90

DFL

4.275-4.275

Germany

174.56-174.56

LIT

4.75-4.75

Italy

4,970-4,980

FTSE

2,001-2,002

Switzerland

3,400-3,410

SFR

1.649-1.670

Spain

7,750-7,750

DOL

1.851-1.851

Sweden

8,990-8,990

1 EN

30.40-30.40

Norway

10,360-10,370

ASX

5,000-5,000

Denmark

10,320-10,320

ASX

5,000-5,000

Austria

27.45-27.75

DJR

5,202-5,202

Portugal

90.55-90.55

NOR

5,000-5,000

Japan

46,720-47,220

POR

5,000-5,000

SKR

4.36-4.36

SEB

1.851-1.851

NPJN

60.41-60.41

MEXR

22.75-22.75

N.Y. DOLLAR CROSS RATES

March 9

March 9

Goldster

2.0004

1.00 p.m. fix

32.01

Belgian Franc

29.3454

Western fix

52.40

Deutschmark

1.8533

Western fix

52.75

French Franc

1.8332

Italian Lira

4.7375

Swiss Franc

840.90

Spanish Ptas

254.700

Swiss Franc

1.0410

DOW JONES STOCK AVERAGES

CLOSING STOCK AVERAGES

March 8

30 Industrials

844.85

UP 10.56

0.12%

20 Industrials

213.45

UP 0.21

0.09%

15 Industrials

148.46

UP 0.47

0.45%

8 Stocks

205.00

UP 1.97

0.85%

New York (A-P-D)

10,470

UP 1.00

0.01%

London (A-P-D)

10,470

UP 1.00

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Paris (A-P-D)

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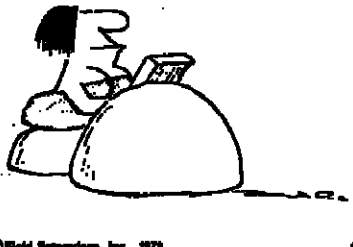
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B.C.

Dear diary,
Today was a very
special day.



Tuesday.



SMALL SOCIETY



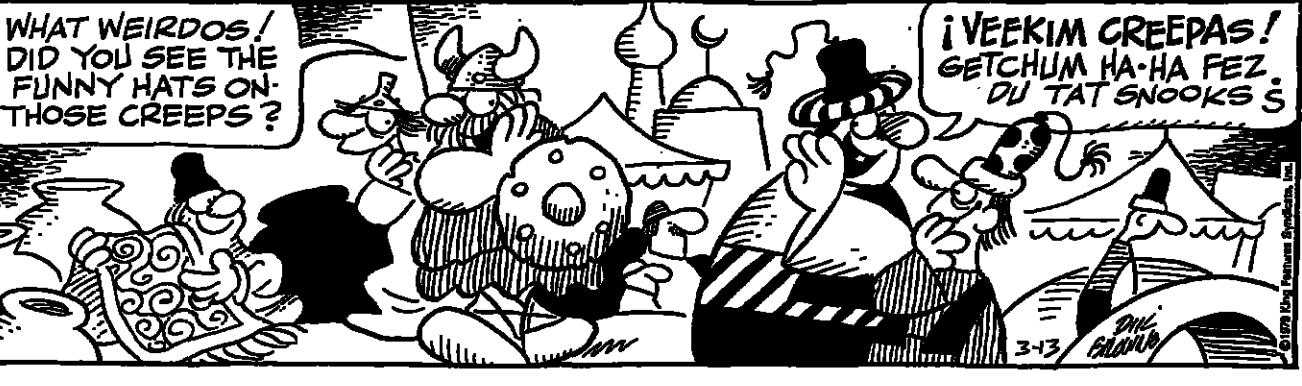
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BEETLE BAILEY



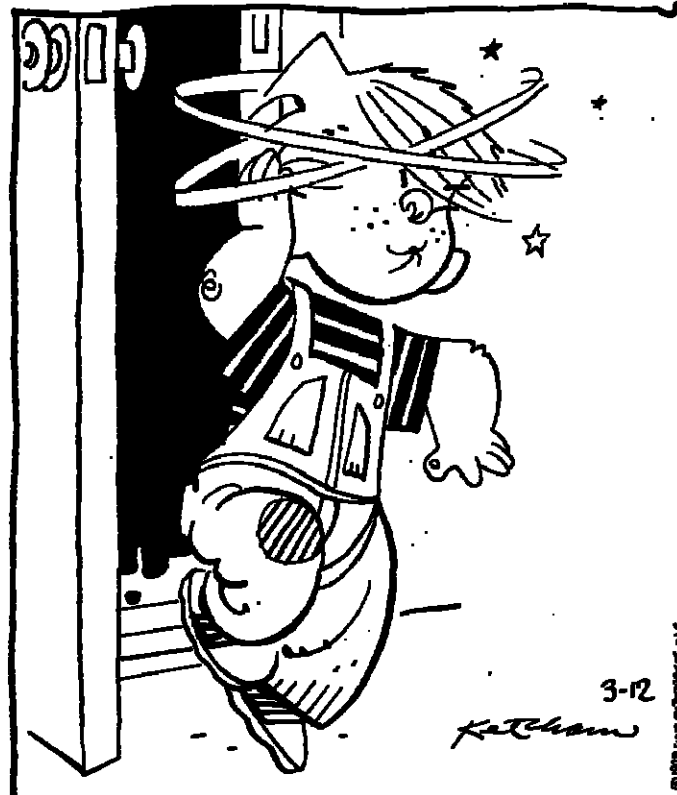
HAGAR



WIZARD



Dennis the Menace



"I'll be glad when I grow up and don't have to worry about bumpin' my head on DOOR KNOBS no more!"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword

by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Unassisted

5 French

9 river

13 the end

17 Circus

21 Frumpy

25 Alias for

29 Main or

33 Killbird

37 Sky Altar

41 Hereditary

45 Mosquitoes

49 cause it

53 Yellow bugle

57 Somewhat

61 Cad

65 Highlander

69 Hoe-down

73 Nauch

77 girl

81 Crow's

85 cry

89 Plethora

93 Sincere

97 Mug

101 Regret

105 Murdri

109 temple

113 Cape of

117 So. Am.

121 Brown

125 mineral

129 Sharpness

133 "The Big

137 Fish-

141 man"

145 Converse

DOWN

1 Absquatulate

2 GWTW name

3 Lick

4 Be in debt

6 Succeed

8 Sports site

10 Surf on

12 shore sound

14 More the look

16 Invigorate

18 Decorative

20 picture

22 Pluck

24 Competent

26 "Cactus

28 Flower" star

30 Explain

32 Golf score

34 East

36 Spring

38 Post

40 American

42 Billow

44 Principle

46 Wrinkle

48 Equivocate

50 Yesterday's Answer

52 Yesterday's Answer

54 Yesterday's Answer

56 Yesterday's Answer

58 Yesterday's Answer

60 Yesterday's Answer

62 Yesterday's Answer

64 Yesterday's Answer

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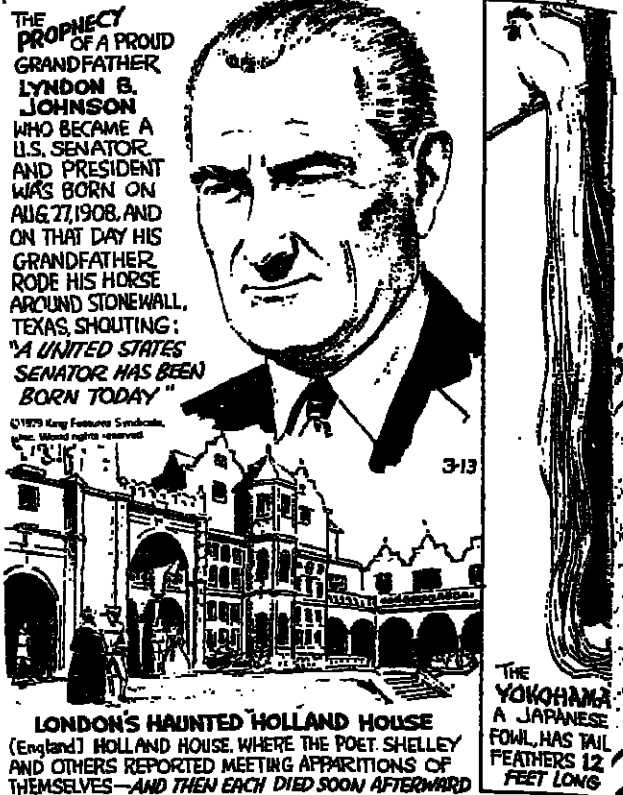
214 Yesterday's Answer

216 Yesterday's Answer

218 Yesterday's Answer

220 Yesterday's Answer

Believe It or Not!



LONDON'S HAUNTED HOLLAND HOUSE (England) HOLLAND HOUSE WHERE THE POET SHELLEY AND OTHERS REPORTED MEETING APPARITIONS OF THEMSELVES—AND THEN EACH DIED SOON AFTERWARD

Contract Bridge

B. Jay Becker

Famous Hand

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A K 9 3

♥ 10 3

♦ A 6 4 2

♣ 10 7 3

WEST

♠ Q J 10 6 4 2

♥ 2 5 2

♦ Q 3

♣ Q 3

EAST

♠ 8 4

♥ K 10 9 8 7

♦ A J 9 6 5 4

SOUTH

♠ 8 7 5

♥ A K Q J 7 6

♦ J 5

♣ K 8

The bidding:

West North East South

2♣ Pass Pass 4♥

Opening lead — queen of spades.

There are some hands where declarer must make

what seems to be a thoroughly

irresponsible play in order to

give himself the best chance to

make the contract. Fortunately,

such situations are few and far

between — or we'd all be nervous

wrecks — but when the rare

occasion does arise and declarer

meets the challenge, it's always a

great pleasure to report the

occurrence.

This famous hand was played in

an Australian national team of

four championship. South was the

world-renowned star, Tim

Seres, who characteristically

and optimistically leaped to

four hearts after West's

preemptive two spade bid had

been passed around to him.

West's opening lead was the

queen of spades, on which

Seres made the extraordinary

play of the three of spades

from dummy! East discarded

a club and then ruffed dum-

my's king of spades when

West continued with the jack

of spades at trick two.

East did so well as could

when he shifted to the two

diamonds at trick three, but

Seres was now in full com-

mand of the situation. He won

the diamond return in dummy

with the ace, drew three

rounds of trumps, and then

finessed the nine of spades.

After discarding his

diamond loser on dummy's

ace of spades, Seres led a

club towards his K-3 and thus

brought home the contract.

His only losers proved to be

two spade tricks and a club

trick. This contract would have

failed had Seres made the

almost automatic play of

covering West's queen of

spades with dummy's king at

trick one. East would ruff the

king of spades and

presumably return a diamond

to dummy's ace. Declarer

would then find it impossible

to avoid losing four tricks

consisting of the opening

spade ruff, a club, a diamond,

and another spade.

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DAH.

Passport Lost

KARAFI work union Saudi Arabia Ltd. Jeddah 3. announces that Mr. AKTAGIL SADIK, Turkish nationality has lost his passport no. 328553 issued at Turkey. Finder please deliver it to Turkish embassy, Jeddah or contact Tel: 31696 Jeddah.

NORHAN CO.

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LARGE COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OPERATING THROUGH SEVERAL BRANCHES IN THE KINGDOM SEEKS THE FOLLOWING FOR ITS RIYADH HEADQUARTERS:
WELL QUALIFIED SENIOR ACCOUNTANT WITH A BACKGROUND OF SEVERAL YEARS COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTING EXPERIENCE IN LARGE COMPANIES. MUST BE ABLE TO HANDLE STAFF AND BE COMPETENT BY EXPERIENCE TO HANDLE ALL ACCOUNTING FUNCTIONS UP TO AND INCLUDING THE PREPARATION OF FINAL ACCOUNTS. EXPERIENCE LIMITED TO ONLY THAT GAINED IN PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT'S OFFICES WILL BE IGNORED. THE ABILITY TO SPEAK AND WRITE ENGLISH WELL IS A MUST. IT WOULD BE AN ADDED ADVANTAGE IF A CANDIDATE COULD ALSO SPEAK AND WRITE ARABIC.
OR AN APPOINTMENT FOR INTERVIEW TELEPHONE:
MR. GRAHAM SPEARS RIYADH 4787726

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- 2) TWO VILLAS (SINGLE OR TOGETHER) EACH ONE CONTAINS FOUR BEDROOM, SITTING-ROOM, DINING-ROOM AND THREE BATH-ROOM.
- 3) FLAT CONTAINS ONE BED-ROOM, SITTING-ROOM, DINING-ROOM AND KITCHEN.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
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Accommodation for 454 persons (2 persons per room) plus camp staff.

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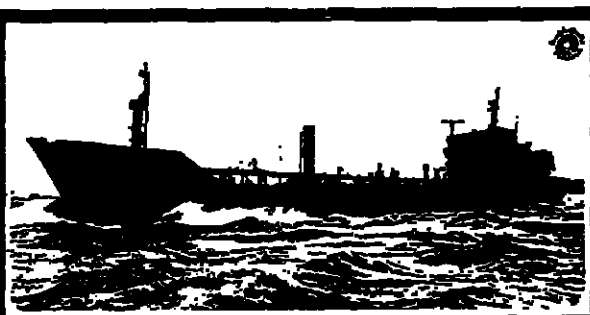
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Somali Passport No. 46236 issued at Moghadishu on 20-11-76 to Mr. Abdi Adan Elmi has been lost. Finder please deliver it to Somali Embassy — Jeddah.

PASSPORT LOST

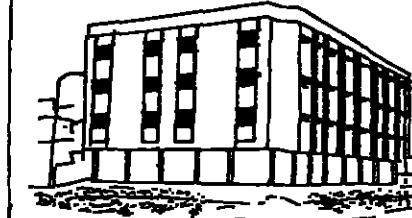
Eritrean Travel Document No. 9067 issued at Khartoum with Igama No. 3285/12/CH to Mr. Meheretab Wolday has been lost. Finder please deliver it to Sudan Embassy — Jeddah.

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PAGE 14

International

١٤ ربيع الثاني ١٣٩٩

Vietnam charges Chinese still pillaging, destroying

BANGKOK, March 11 (AP) — Vietnam demanded Sunday that China immediately withdraw all its troops from Vietnamese soil and said that Peking was using its withdrawal pledge as "a smokescreen" to continue its aggression.

The Voice of Vietnam Radio, quoting a statement of Hanoi's Foreign Ministry, said that as of Saturday, Chinese troops were still pillaging, burning and shelling areas of Hoang Lien Son and Cao Bang provinces and other areas along the more than

1,300 kilometers of frontier. Similar statements have come out of Hanoi over the past week.

Vietnam also accused Chinese troops Sunday of killing wounded soldiers and civilians in the battle zones, firing at a Red Cross vehicle and killing hundreds of small children.

The Voice of Vietnam said the Red Cross Society of Vietnam Saturday issued a statement protesting alleged Chinese violations of international law on the protection of war victims.

"Chinese soldiers instead of giving help to wounded civilians and soldiers stabbed and shot them to death in the battle areas," the statement said.

China has recently said its troops treated the Vietnamese civilians with kindness and even took care of deserted villages near the frontier.

Vietnam did not carry a specific battle report Sunday, but analysts in Bangkok said the Chinese troops were continuing to withdraw and the scale of fighting was lower.

There was evidence the Chinese were destroying the Vietnamese installations along the border, but could not confirm any of the Vietnamese claims about Chinese atrocities.

In Cambodia Sunday, the radio of the ex-Pnom Penh government reported heavy fighting in the northwestern Battambang province and claimed more than 500 Vietnamese were killed or wounded in recent clashes in widespread areas of the country.

The victories by soldiers of deposed Premier Pol Pot occurred March 6-9, the radio said.

Saturday, China protested sharply to Laos against what it termed false charges by the Vietnamese government that Chinese troops were massing along the Laotian border, the New China News Agency reported.

It was the first time the Chinese had lodged a protest with Laos, although Chinese officials have said they regarded the Laotians as being under Vietnamese domination.



EXPLODING : This Vietnam News Agency picture monitored in Tokyo is described as being of a Chinese tank exploding on the battlefield in northern Vietnam's Cao Bang Province. Sunday Vietnam charged that Peking was using its claims of withdrawing to cover up "continued aggression" in Vietnam. (AP Vietnam).

Separatists attacked

Corsican bomb war escalates

BASTIA, Corsica, March 11 (R) — Bombers struck against Corsican separatists Sunday after the worst wave of explosions on the island since July.

Seven bombs exploded in this northern port, in villages to the south in the homes and shops of supporters of separatist groups, police said.

In an apparent escalation of the battle between the Banned Corsican Liberation Front and its opponents, the blasts between one and two a.m. seemed an immediate reply to 34 explosions caused by separatists in Corsica and in Paris before dawn Saturday.

No one has claimed responsibility for Sunday's bombings, but a group which wants Corsica to remain French, called the Action Front against Autonomists and Separatists (Francia), has carried out such attacks in the past.

In July, Corsican separatists exploded 34 bombs within an hour in a rash of attacks on the island, in Paris, Brittany and the Basque country. Some 440 bombings and shootings were carried out in Corsica last year, of which police estimate a third were politically motivated.

The weekend bombings came at a time when police believed they had succeeded in dismantling the FLNC after a series of arrests in the past six months. One group of separatists will stand trial in Paris, probably next

month. Bombs were set off this weekend outside banks on the island in Corte, Ponte Leccia, Bastia and in the capital of Ajaccio. Two bombs exploded in Paris outside branches of the Societe Generale about 3 a.m.

On Saturday one bomb believed exploded in protest at the separatists was at the home of a cousin of autonomist leader Edmond Simeoni, whose Corsican People's Union (UPC) would let Paris run defense and foreign affairs. The FLNC wants a straight break.

President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Prime Minister Raymond Barre visited Corsica last year and called for an end to bombings and violence. Though both received a warm welcome, their appeals appear to have been ignored by Corsicans.

Hundreds of Mexicans protest U.S. crackdown

EL PASO, Tex., March 11 (AP) — Hundreds of Mexican citizens, angered at a U.S. crackdown on illegal aliens, blocked three international bridges Saturday, tearing down three American flags and throwing them into the Rio Grande.

A 10-year-old Mexican girl was run down and killed at the "Bridge of the Americas" when two American women in a

car allegedly tried to ram their way through the barricades on the El Paso to Juarez, Mexico, Mexican police said. One of the two women, a U.S. citizen who lives in Juarez, was arrested in the death of the girl, Lara Patricia Favela-Chavez. The protest ended Saturday night, when the demonstrators withdrew, moving cars that had been blocking the bridges and allowing traffic to cross.

From page one

Israeli

The Associated Press learned, meanwhile, that preparations were being made for Carter to extend his stay in Israel until Tuesday, a day later than planned.

U.S. officials, asking not to be identified, said Carter had always been prepared to remain in Jerusalem an additional day if talks with Begin required an extension.

The Palestinian issue again is looming as the principal issue dividing Egypt and Israel. The question is how directly, if at all, the treaty terms are to relate to implementation of limited self-rule for the 1.1 million Palestinians living on the West Bank and in Gaza.

The American package, carried by Carter to Egypt and now Sadat's demand for an autonomy timetable.

Instead of requiring implementation beginning a year after the Egyptian-Israeli treaty is signed, a one-year goal

would be set for completing negotiations.

This is designed to meet Israeli reservations about tying the treaty to an autonomy plan that depends largely on Palestinian participation. So far, Palestinian leaders, and Jordan, have boycotted all negotiations.

Sadat is known to be still insisting on concrete evidence that Israel intends to set up a self-rule plan. He is reported to have proposed that a formula be considered for Gaza, if not the West Bank, since the territory was formerly under Egyptian control and Cairo's influence there remains strong.

In Cairo, meanwhile Egyptian foreign ministry officials said Sunday Carter's talks with Sadat had brought Egypt and Israel closer to a peace treaty.

Commenting on Carter's three-day visit, which ended Saturday, the officials said: "Most of the difficult problems were resolved and the two coun-

tries are now closer to an agreement."

They declined to disclose the problems.

One official said the remaining difficulties could be resolved, "if Israel responded positively to the Egyptian ideas."

The authoritative newspaper "Al-Gomhouria" Sunday morning reported that Carter's talks achieved progress on the three disputed issues between Egypt and Israel, which it listed as follows:

— Article four of a draft treaty dealing with security arrangements in Sinai.

— An explanatory formula concerning article six of the draft dealing with Egypt's defense commitments towards Arab countries.

— A side letter on linking an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty with Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The newspaper did not say how progress was achieved.

N. Yemeni

Before leaving Cairo for Sanaa Sunday, Riad said he hopes to get both sides to agree to speed up implementation of the conference's resolutions.

He said the success of his committee meeting in Sanaa — and of a military committee meeting in Aden — depend on the goodwill of the two countries.

The two sides in the conflict have accused each other of serious violations of the cease fire, involving an alliance against North Yemen between the South Yemenis and a North Yemeni group called the National Democratic Front which is based in Aden.

The NDF, which has received verbal support from Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, claims to have captured several towns in North Yemen.

The political committee meeting in Sanaa is supposed to organize and oversee the work of the military committee.



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FINLAND

An Arab News Supplement

MARCH 1979

Neutral country looks south

By Nigel Harvey

Forests, lakes and saunas — these are the few popular images of Finland. So too are the Nordic country's neutrality and apparently special relationship with the giant to its eastern border. It rarely makes headlines and the small, industrious population of four and a half million carries on quietly in the world.

But Helsinki, the capital, made its way onto international front pages with a vengeance in 1975 as the home of détente. And in the Middle East, Finland is now a byword for the UN peace-keeping forces; even the secretary-general's special representative, Martti Ahtisaari is a Finn.

Many see these international peace-making activities as Finnish escapes from an otherwise static and stable foreign policy. For their post-war 'active neutrality' has blossomed into a peaceful net of world relations and trade agreements embracing the East, the West, and now the Arab world.

This is new to Finland like other small European countries. Untainted by any colonial past, the Finnish experience of the Middle East is limited. They boast only one significant early contact: the 19th century Arabist, George Wallin, who spent many years in Egypt and touring Arabia. His collection of Arabic manuscripts still holds pride of place in the University of Helsinki and his traveller's memoirs have often been reprinted. One lengthy original is well known to the archivists at the Royal Geographical Society in London where he lectured en route back to Helsinki in 1849.

But Wallin's early death snuffed out any burgeoning tradition of Arab interest. The relationship lay dormant for a century and only in the

last decade has it sprung to life again.

As with most other countries, trade figures and possibilities brought on the growing new Finnish awareness. Diplomatic and commercial activity began in the early '70s, but took off with the post-'73 slump.

Finland now maintains five resident embassies in the Arab world to cover its relations throughout. And Finnish companies are working on projects in virtually every country, though Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia are its major Arab trade partners.

Few Saudis have made the journey to Europe's northern corner; their disregard for numerous top level invitations to Finland has caused some consternation among leaders. They are anxious to expand relations with the Kingdom.

Diplomatic relations, the fruit of several years' Finnish persistence, were established in 1971 and later followed by a joint economic and technical cooperation agreement. This is one of several such Finnish agreements with the Arab world.

But while Egypt and Iraq maintain resident embassies in Helsinki, none of Saudi's European ambassadors has laid his credentials before President Kekkonen.

Officials blame the lapse on their relative unimportance and continue to view their neutrality as an advantage in the Arab world. But some businessmen more fearfully suspect it follows over-emphasis on their country's special relationship with the Soviet Union.

If this is so, it is unfair. Finland is not a Soviet satellite. The neighboring giant does account for a fifth of trade and is the source of much energy and raw materials. The co-operative relationship, en-

shrined in numerous medium and long-term agreements, is naturally important to the small country, and within the neutral Nordic bloc forms the counterbalance to Norwegian and Danish NATO membership.

But equally as a member of the Nordic Council, it has strong trade and other links with its Scandinavian neighbors. And its Soviet sensitivity is built on a history of Swedish and Russian dominance, and more recently the post-war Soviet occupation of some Finnish territory in parallel with severe war reparations. Unlike the Swedes, the Finns have suffered for their neutrality.

The reparations were paid to the last rouble, producing a

new and technically advanced industrial base. Since then the stable relations have developed, centered on the 1948 Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance. And while the thriving Finnish parliamentary democracy and market economy now rests easily under the Soviet shadow, there is a price.

Under the treaty, the Finns are bound to start military consultations should a threat to the Soviet Union arise from Finnish territory. This explains their anxious hopes for the SALT negotiations. President Kekkonen last year, for example, raised the fear that American or NATO cruise missiles in Nordic waters could be construed a threat

through Finnish airspace, and lead to Soviet demands for advance warning posts in Finland.

The Finns clearly have an interest in international peace and are well represented in the upper echelons of the UN as well as the assembly debates, where they cooperate with the Scandinavian countries and other non-aligned developed countries.

Foreign officials admit their aid — 0.2% of GNP instead of the UN agreed, but rarely kept, standard of 0.7% — illustrates greater vocal progressiveness on third world issues than in practice exists. But their record is still good. A favorable view on Palestinian rights, for example, was announced by President Kekkonen even before the oil-price rises of '73.

Their greatest international achievement was to initiate the conference on European Cooperation and Security which officially founded détente in Helsinki in 1975. The Finns need continuing international rapprochement. Officials, for example, view the recent Chinese-American contact as the desirable end to an anomaly, even if it could lead to some international tension which works against their interests.

In the Arab world, Finland has spread itself widely, developing relations as far as mutual interests can take them. They are new to the area, not having had at least the usual history of oil imports. But these will grow, as has trade, since Finland's recession-hit economy discovered its need to develop beyond its traditional European markets.

At home, the local press recently took great interest in the minor case of a young Lebanese student who was expelled under the country's

strict regulations on aliens. He caused some trouble while trying unsuccessfully to elect new officers for a Helsinki Arab cultural club. As the proposed translator to Arabic of a famous Finnish epic poem, his wild accusations about Arab espionage activities in Helsinki were widely printed — at the expense of the average Finn's image of the Arabs.

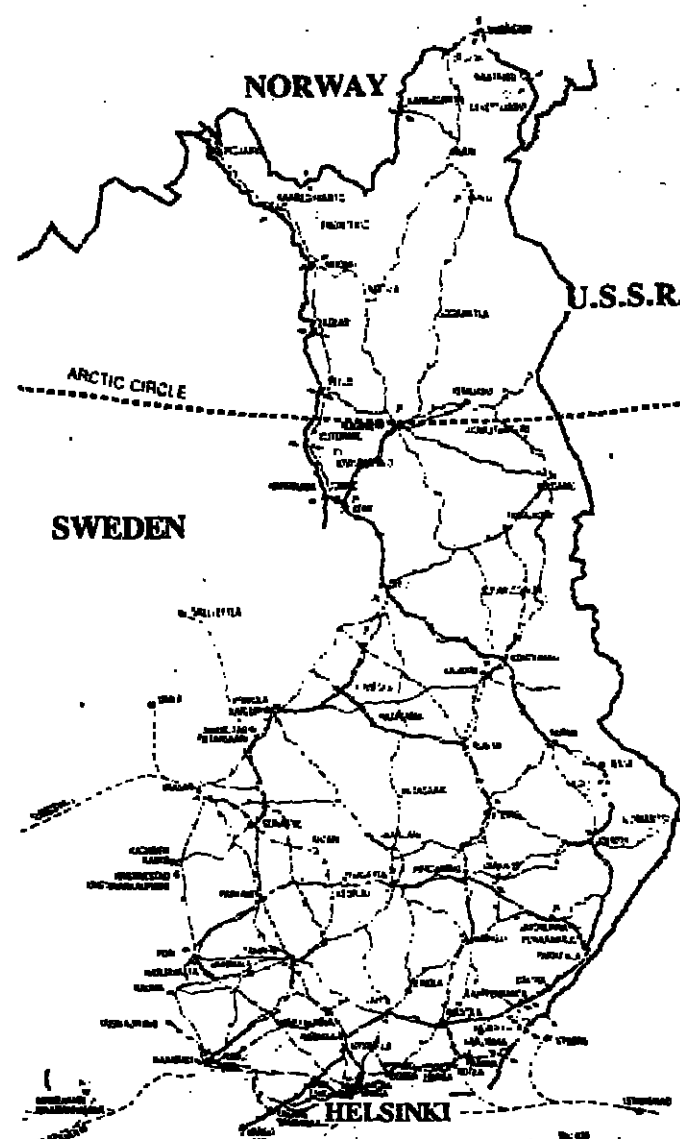
But the incident has been forgotten, and the traditionally limited Finnish interest in the Arab world grows daily. Books on Arab history have sold out, as Finns increasingly holiday in Arab countries, and officials hope possible new air routes to Saudi Arabia and Egypt will encourage more visits both ways.

The 1,000 strong Islamic community of Turks report trouble-free coexistence with the Protestant Finns since migrating to the country a century ago. They are fiercely proud of their financial independence but warmly welcome visitors to their Helsinki mosque, built after years of saving.

Naturally, however, Finland's Arab interest is ultimately for business, and through construction this has grown considerably over the past few years, particularly in Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

For Finland this activity has been vitally important in preserving its stagnated construction industry, and the Middle East is now its major overseas construction market, having overtaken the Soviet Union where they are also involved in development projects.

The Finns were late to the Middle East but are now extremely keen to continue the growth in trade relations, and overcome the market's difficulties for their small, relatively unknown, but unique country.



Presidential Message

It gives me great pleasure to convey my best greetings to the readers of Arab News. The publication of a supplement on Finland is in itself an expression of the growing mutual interest in developing comprehensively the relations between Finland and Saudi Arabia.

One important aspect of these relations is economic. In recent years Finland has worked hard to gain a foothold for its exports in the prosperous and expanding markets of Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries. I am pleased to be able to say that these efforts have been crowned with considerable success.

I am convinced that the results already achieved will provide a firm basis for the deepening and broadening of the relations between Finland and Saudi Arabia, thus responding to the interests of our two countries and to the new challenges of international cooperation.

Urho Kekkonen

Urho Kekkonen
President of the Republic of Finland



Forests and lakes: eighty per cent of land area

Basic Statistics

Area: 337,000 sq km

Population: 4.7 m

GNP: 130.8 bn Fmk

Trade 1978

Imports: 32,322.1 m Fmk

Exports: 35,209.2 m Fmk

Currency: Finnmarks (Fmk)

US\$ = 3.97 Fmk

Saudi Riyal = 1.18 Fmk

Trade with Middle East 1977

Imports: 1,650.7 m Fmk

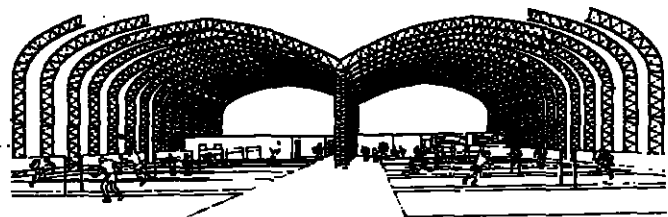
Exports: 1,398.8 m Fmk

1978

Imports: 1,311.16 m Fmk

Exports: 1,440.3 m Fmk

The Finn-Span standardized element system solves changing space problems, quickly and inexpensively.



Construction is no longer intended for the next 500 years, but the needs of today. The need for covered space grows continually with development. The quality and quantity of space needed depends on the economy and the environment.

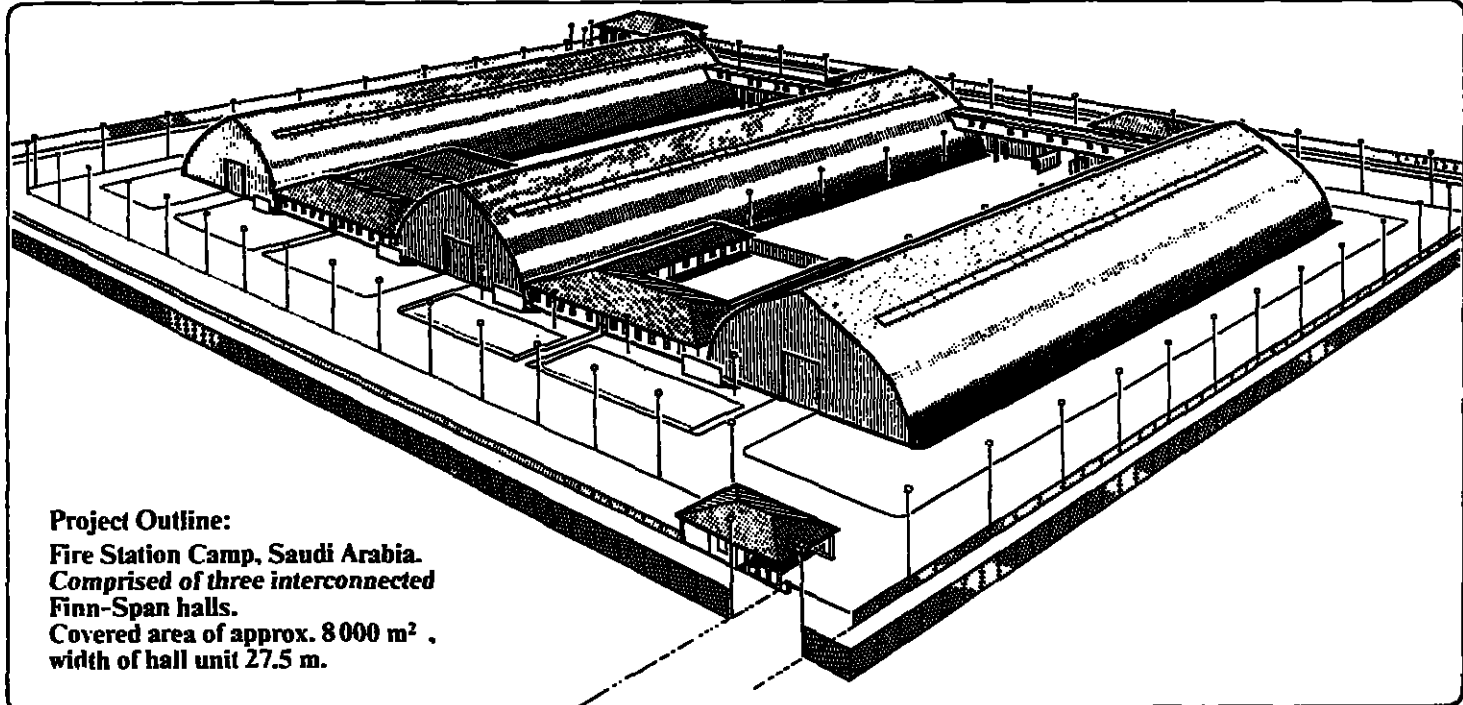
The size and shape of buildings must be adjustable according to the need and they must be transferable, to another site if necessary.

Finn-Span is a steel element system which enables construction of hall structures for a variety of purposes at moderate expense. The system consists of three basic units with connecting sections and braces as needed.

Basic Finn-Span units



Sheeting materials and colours can be suited according to purpose. All halls can also be insulated and equipped for heating or air-conditioning.



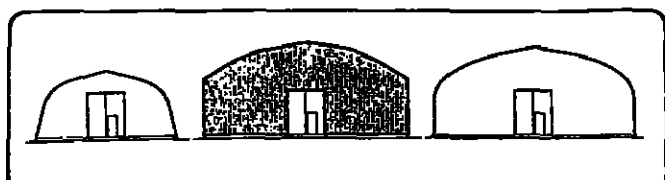
Project Outline:

Fire Station Camp, Saudi Arabia.

Comprised of three interconnected Finn-Span halls.

Covered area of approx. 8,000 m².

width of hall unit 27.5 m.

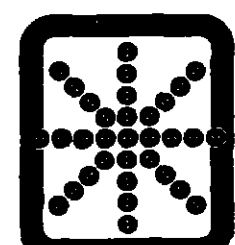


The Finn-Span system offers the planner unlimited possibilities. The size and shape of the hall can be planned accurately based on requirements. The long dimension of the hall can be readily extended as space requirements grow. The Finn-Span hall can be dismantled and stored when necessary or moved and re-assembled without damage to component parts.

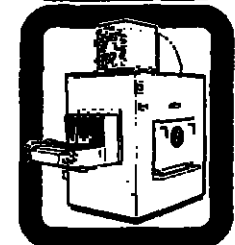
One design principle of Finn-Span element system planning has been quick erection and disassembly of component parts. Three men constitute an adequate erection crew and the work can be carried out without a crane.

The basic units are rapidly connected with mortice and tenon joints which, as is the erection method, are patented in 20 countries. This method can be applied without a crane for halls up to 15 m wide.

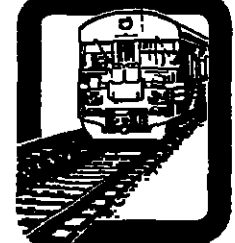
Finnmekano Oy is a multiple enterprise, active in many areas of the metal industry.



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production of washers and washing lines for use in industry and repairs garages. The equipment is employed to clean machine parts before assembly or painting as well as machines up to 15 ton in size.



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Finno-Arab Relations

Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen discusses Finland's international role, and in particular her relations with the Arab world.

How would you describe your past relations with the Arab world and its various members, and how important to Finland will these be in the future?

Finland has always enjoyed excellent relations with the Arab world in general and with every Arab country in particular. The history of Finno-Arab relations is the history of a sustained growth of contacts and cooperation.

Finland maintains at present, five resident embassies in the Arab world, each embassy covering more than one country. We have concluded agreements on economic, industrial and technological cooperation with Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Tunisia; with Algeria such an agreement has been initiated, and with Morocco we are scheduled to negotiate such an agreement this month.

This shows the way that we are willing to continue always when a mutual interest is there. We are prepared to put our highly developed technology at the disposal of our Arab friends and, in particular, to contribute towards the training and specialization of citizens of Arab countries in technological matters, as far as our resources permit.

You seem to have developed particularly close relations with Iraq and perhaps Egypt compared to other Arab countries, though you do have diplomatic connections. Yes, most contacts between Finland and the Arab countries have been with these two countries. Iraq has very ambitious plans to develop their country and Finland has been able to participate in them on an entirely business basis. This has been the main form of cooperation with Iraq and of course we have also had

many visits because of this activity.

On the other hand we have had developmental cooperation with Egypt. We have participated in some projects in this field as well as others on a commercial basis.

But we are also interested to expand our relations more with other Arab countries.

Through participation in the UN peace-keeping forces, your country is close to the Middle East conflict. What is Finland's position on this problem in the past and in the light of the Camp David dialogue and related developments?

Finland's active participation in UN peace-keeping operations in the Middle East is a reflection of our general policy to promote all efforts to find peaceful solutions to international problems. Here we particularly support action within and through the UN system.

In the Arab-Israeli conflict Finland's position has been

consistently based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), which, in our view, mean that Israel has to withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967 and that all states in the area, including Israel, must have the right to live in peace within secure and recognized borders.

In addition, we regard the Palestinian question as a key to the whole problem. Peace can only be achieved if the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right for national self-determination, are fulfilled.

Peace talks between Egypt and Israel have not changed our view on the basic principles of a just and durable peace. Finland welcomes all genuine efforts, wherever, or by the initiative of whoever they may take place, aimed at promoting a peaceful solution in the Middle East and which are intended — and this I wish to stress — as a contribution to a comprehensive solution in accordance with the resolutions 242 and 338.

You have friendly, normal re-

lations with Israel, how does Finland feel about the PLO? Would you, for instance, accept an information office as in Stockholm?

We have no official position about this in Finland in so far as we haven't had an application. After receiving one we are going to discuss it and decide whether to accept it or not. I suppose personally that the answer is going to be positive.

In our foreign policy it is very important to be able to have good relations with all the countries in the Middle East area and we hope that the Arab countries on one side and Israel on the other allow us this. The main principle in our foreign policy is to try to have good relations with all other countries in the world, especially in a conflict area like this where I think it is valuable in supporting peaceful settlement.

Of course there's a difference with the PLO because it is not a state like Israel and the Arab countries. But taking into consideration the nature and level of the PLO we are willing to have good relations with them as we already have, including many contacts in the past. But it has a different status to a state under international law.

However, new arms technology and the northern sea areas can draw more international attention to Northern Europe, and that's why it is important to try to prevent undesirable developments in advance. This was also in President Kekkonen's mind as he proposed a Nordic arms control arrangement in a speech last May.

The Nordic countries have created a large network of mutual cooperation in social, cultural and economic fields and they are also active partners in wider international cooperation. They — not only Finland — have much interest in expanding East-West relations and especially at the UN, they have been in many economic and political questions, closer to the non-aligned countries than many other Western countries. Finland has regularly been represented as an invited guest at high-level meetings and conferences arranged by the movement of the non-aligned countries. N.H.

lateral agreements, one on mutual friendship, cooperation and assistance and the other on long term economic cooperation, reach to the 1990s, and they, together with numerous other agreements, guarantee that the Finnish-Soviet relations will remain on a firm basis and stay outside any speculations also in the future.

Where does Finland's future lie? Will the delicate Nordic balance continue or could there be foreign policy changes perhaps for a more independent Nordic bloc, with the role of East-West go-between and stronger ties with the non-aligned group of countries?

Finland cannot speak on behalf of the other Nordic countries. All our neighbouring countries have made their basic decisions on foreign and security policy independently, but not without taking the other countries into account.

The common aim is to keep the Nordic area aside from big power competition and confrontation. Our experience is that the big powers also share this desire to maintain tensions at low level. It seems that the present situation is satisfying to all sides.

However, new arms technology and the northern sea areas can draw more international attention to Northern Europe, and that's why it is important to try to prevent undesirable developments in advance. This was also in President Kekkonen's mind as he proposed a Nordic arms control arrangement in a speech last May.

The Nordic countries have created a large network of mutual cooperation in social, cultural and economic fields and they are also active partners in wider international cooperation.

They — not only Finland — have much interest in expanding East-West relations and especially at the UN, they have been in many economic and political questions, closer to the non-aligned countries than many other Western countries. Finland has regularly been represented as an invited guest at high-level meetings and conferences arranged by the movement of the non-aligned countries. N.H.

Multi-party confusion belies electoral stability

By Veijo Sahihonma

No major changes are expected as a result of Finland's general election in mid-March. The moderate Right, in the form of the Conservative (National Coalition) party, is expected to make clear gains. But these will hardly bring the Conservatives — the largest opposition grouping — into the Government.

The present Government parties — Social Democrats (Communists), and Liberals should emerge from the election unscathed. The Left's share of the vote may drop by a percentage point or so. The Conservative victory will be mainly based on losses by small, Right-wing splinter parties, which arose as protest factions about ten years ago, thus shaking up Finnish domestic politics.

Popular Front in a tangle
The collaboration of the Left and the Center in govern-



Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen: "excellent relations with the Arab world"

ment, sparked off by the impressive strides made by the Social Democrats in the 1966 election, now seems to have obtained new vigor. The hardest years in this partnership are now past. The Communists' split into two factions — the so-called majority (moderate) and minority (hard-line) — twice drove the party out of the Government and precipitated occasional Government crises in the early 1970s.

Prior to the present administration, the last period of Left-Center cooperation in office came in Prime Minister Miettunen's coalition (1975-76), when the Communists formed an opposition within the Government. Cooperation within this administration, forcibly hammered into shape by President Kekkonen, was limp throughout. When it became impossible, the Government collapsed in 1976 after just over ten months in office. It was followed by a minority coalition of the Center, Liberal, and Swedish People's parties, which managed to remain in power — mainly with Conservative support — until spring 1977.

The second Government of the present Prime Minister, Mr. Kalevi Sorsa, took up office in May 1977. In terms of cooperation, it has proved viable and has been spared insuperable quarrels.

Contradictions in economic policy

But there have been some small disputes. Contrasting positions have been asserted: mainly on finance policy, taxation, and the foreign debt. The Communists want the

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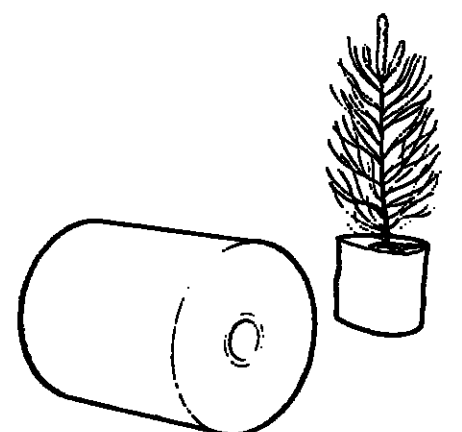


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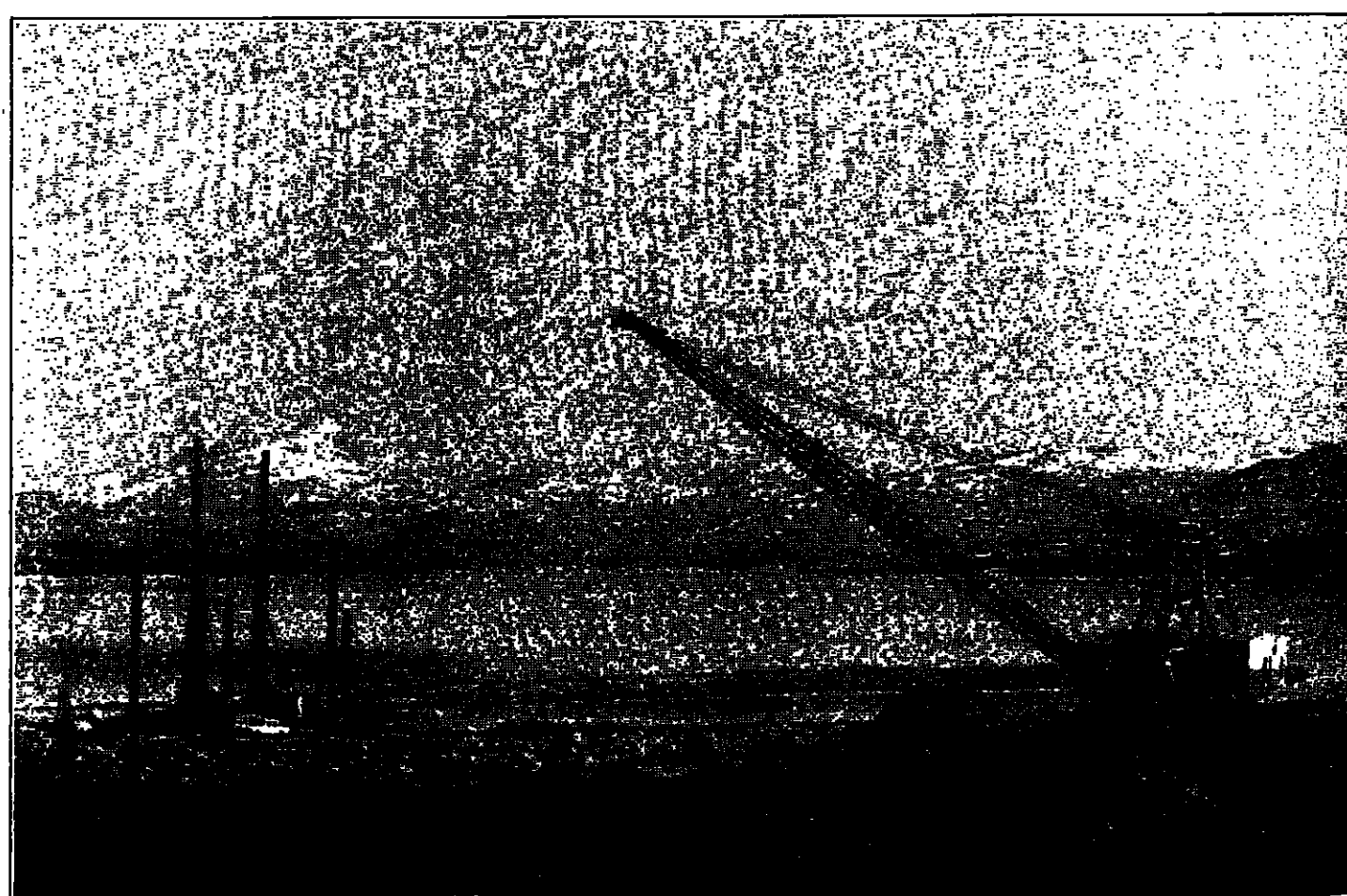
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Continued

Bank of Finland to loosen its monetary screws. With unemployment deemed the nation's greatest problem, the Communists would like to stimulate domestic demand, thus increasing industrial capacity utilization and reducing the masses of the unemployed.

However, this line is opposed by both the other Government parties and the opposition. The most important argument against is the vulnerability of the Finnish economy. Expanding consumption would considerably increase imports, thus endangering the external balance. Simultaneously, it is feared that inflation would gather fresh momentum.

Setting aside the politicians, Government economic policy has been mainly criticised in academic quarters. Two professors of economics — Pentti Kouri of Yale University and Jonko J. Paunio of Helsinki University — have been most vocal. Their opinions as economists happen to coincide markedly with the views expressed by the Communists.

Meanwhile, the Center party and the Social Democrats have been at loggerheads over the size of borrowing abroad. This year the State is planning to raise about Fmk 4.5 billion abroad to plug the coffers, and a further Fmk 2 billion will be needed from inside Finland. The Center party believes this sum is already too high — and fears that it may actually be exceeded.

In taxation policy the dividing line lies between Socialists and non-Socialists. The former have sternly opposed an increase in the share of indirect taxation, which has been fervently canvassed by the latter. Prime Minister Sorsa has, however, promised to launch a grand debate on taxation after the March election.

Balanced economy

The Sorsa government is able to take the credit for bringing Finland into external equilibrium. Last year there was a Fmk 2.9 billion foreign trade surplus. Exports were 13.8 per cent up on 1977,

while imports increased by only 5.2 per cent.

Inflation was brought under control, with a rate for the calendar year of 7.6% and year-on-year price rises of 5.9 per cent up till last December. Price pressures slowed down towards the end of the year.

Inflation, touching 17.8 per cent, was at its worst in 1975, and was still at the 12.7 per cent level in 1977.

Thus inflation in Finland was slower than that in competing countries and the competitive position of export industries improved appreciably thanks to domestic stimulatory measures.

Thanks to the significant foreign trade surplus, the current account is also clearly in the black. In 1977 it still registered a Fmk 600 million deficit. Now the surplus is already Fmk 2.3 billion, 1.7 per cent of GNP. The growth in the foreign debt recorded in the 1970s has been broken, and in fact the total net debt of the national economy has decreased.

Last year total production moved into an upturn. Admittedly growth was below the international average, touching less than 3 per cent. Output is expected to revive further, and optimism prevails. However, the boom will remain very modest: predicted growth in 1979 is 4-5 per cent. Expectations have increased since last autumn, when this figure was put at 3.5 per cent.

Unemployment: the constant problem

This economic growth has still not made any impact on the Government's biggest problem — unemployment. The jobless rate has settled at about 7.6 per cent — the forecast average for this year.

The incomes settlement, concluded in early January, is very restrained and should not worsen the situation. Besides all its prestige, the Government also threw a billion-Finnmark support package into the pay deal. This is meant to boost disposable family incomes and production, mainly through tax reductions.

The pay accord was a victory for Prime Minister Sorsa

and Co-finance Minister Paul Paavola, both Social Democrats. The Government played the main role in engineering a settlement. Mr Paavola drafted the support package, and Mr Sorsa mediated in an eleven-hour dispute between unions and employers over earnings guarantees.

Conservatives still excluded

The Government to be formed after the election has aroused widespread discussion. Among the middle-of-the-road parties, in particular the Center, the desire has been expressed that the Government base be extended to include the Conservatives. The Left has reservations about such a proposal, and the Communists especially do not want this form of cooperation at Government level.

For their part, the Conservatives have championed the alternative of a Right-wing majority Government. However, this may remain mere conjecture, for the Center party is not keen on pulling out of the existing Government coalition.

As the continuation of the present Government after the election appears most likely, the debate has concentrated on the Prime Ministership and the distribution of portfolios. The Communists' sharp split into a Eurocommunist-type majority and a class-committed Stalinist minority has proved permanent. The majority has opened doors to the Social Democrats, with whom cooperation has been close in both the Government and the trade union movement. The minority has formed an internal opposition to the Government. This group stridently criticises the administration in both Parliament and its own press — often hitting even harder than the official Right-wing opposition.

Among organised labour, the Social Democrats command a majority in most trade unions, and they and the majority Communists have been pursuing similar policies. In the pay talks both these camps had identical aims, but the minority Communists

tried to stir up demands for huge pay increases and to provoke disruptions in industry. But the outcome was a peaceful centralised agreement.

The Social Democrats have remained united. Leftists within the party have become less vocal, and the mainstream line represented by Prime Minister and party chairman Sorsa has gained the upper hand.

Sorsa marches on

As their Prime Ministerial candidate, the Social Democrats have entered the incumbent Mr Sorsa, while the Center party is insisting that the existing Social Democratic 'hegemony' in economic policy be terminated. The Social Democrats currently hold the key posts in the Cabinet: Prime Minister, Co-finance Minister, and Trade and Industry Minister. The Center party is insisting on a Finance Minister's post in the next Government.

During the present phase of broad-based Governments, the Social Democrats have obtained the position of leading economic policy party. They set the pace in the economic debate, and the others play second fiddle.

The next President

Immediately after the re-election of President Kekkonen in 1978, a discussion started on who will be the next Head of State. Urho Kekkonen has been in charge of the Republic since 1956 and is due to continue until 1984.

The man most favored in open debate and public opinion polls is the Governor of the Bank of Finland, Mr Mauno Koivisto. A Social Democrat, Mr Koivisto has twice been Finance Minister and once Prime Minister.

President Kekkonen has warned against premature debate over the succession. The situation is particularly tantalising for the Social Democrats, since opinion polls show that it is mainly Right-wingers who are behind Mr Koivisto. Mr Kalevi Sorsa, Social Democratic leader and Prime Minister, lies far behind Mr Koivisto in the public eye.

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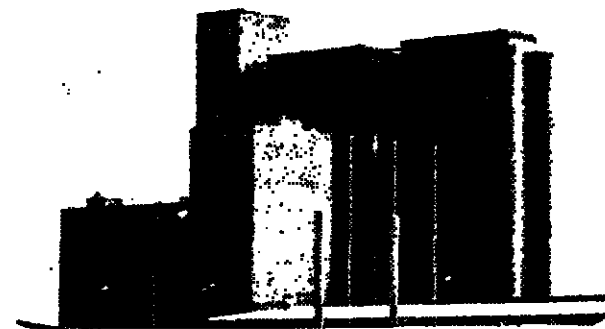
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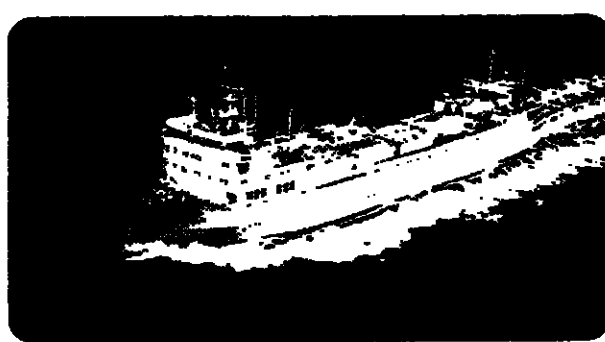
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Reliable expertise fuels trade growth

Finland's businessmen and trade officials are quick to point to technical competence and reliability as reasons for their growing success in the Middle East markets.

These factors have helped the Finnish construction industry's boom in the Middle East, saving it from the stagnation at home. And so behind the commodity export figures of the Finnish customs officials lies far more trade volume when invisibles are considered. Last year the Middle East became the top foreign contracting market, larger even than the massive Russian development projects just across the border.

Severe competition in the Middle East pressures the Finns like everyone else, but they seem confident of future growth and hope their diversification away from pure construction will continue. They are particularly anxious to enter the Saudi market further, though officials and leaders stress wide cooperative interest in the whole Arab world.

Last year's commodity exports to the Middle East of Fmk 1.44 bn represented 4.1% of Finland's total exports. They were widely spread but clearly led by Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq and Algeria in that order. That is a multi-fold increase over the early 70s when trade — with awareness — was low, beyond a few pioneering construction firms.

Almost half of last year's Fmk 223m Saudi imports from Finland centered on the traditional forestry industry, whether raw or manufactured wood and paper products. Machinery and transport equipment, however, took over a quarter at Fmk 59 m, and though this is down by 14% on 77 sales, 73 sales were worth only Fmk 4 m, and even in '76 the figure stood at only Fmk 15.1 m.

These Saudi imports have steadily shot up by a factor of twenty-two since '73, and in Helsinki the Finns are still looking towards the Middle East as a new market for their recession-hit skills and products.

Unlike most of their Scandinavian and West European neighbours, they are not heavily dependent on the Middle East for energy. About two-thirds of their oil as well as some gas comes from the Soviet Union, under various bilateral agreements. So total imports from the Middle East were as low as Fmk 1.3 bn last year. These largely oil imports have even declined over the previous few years, though Finland will clearly be seeking more oil in the future.

Finland's market economy (around 70% privately owned) is highly dependent on foreign exports which represent about 20% of the GDP according to the central Bank of Finland's chief economist, Seppo Lindblom.

And though its Soviet and Comecon trade has remained largely stable, this only cushions a fifth of its trade. The rest is keenly dependent on traditional trading partners in Western Europe, notably the UK, Sweden and West Germany, under a web of free trade agreements including the EEC and EFTA.

In these countries, the recession has cut demand disastrously for Finland's traditional wood and paper products as well as its newer metal

wood product, the 'Fillard', hewn gangway for builders, was designed for Egypt a century ago and is still common.

Finland's awareness of the Arab lands was also poor until recently. "They used to say 'where's that' when I said I was from Syria," says one business consultant living in Helsinki. "But now they generally know."

The last few years have seen big changes in the wake of the construction drive to the Middle East. The state contributes to marketing costs for new products, and last year set up an institution to provide guarantees, formerly only available from a private consortium.

The Finns have been looking more aggressively at the market. Officials and businessmen, however, agree that Finns have traditionally been more concerned with the product than its promotion, relying on quality rather than marketing ability. In this context, one official pointed out, Denmark's success despite its shortage of resources.

Cooperation between the Scandinavian countries is quite good, as they sub-contract to each other. The various countries, related through the Nordic Council, suffer similar problems of unfamiliarity and advantages of political neutrality in the Middle East market. But Finnish firms are small by some Swedish standards and the country has yet to compete with Denmark for agricultural sales.

While they often work with their neighbors, knowing them from earlier projects in Scandinavia, the Finns also naturally tend to stick together if only for linguistic reasons. So their contractors have brought metal and engineering suppliers to the market.

All, however, face the problems of competition, particularly from the Koreans and other third world contractors. Against this they rely on technical ability but are also keenly aware of prices, striving to keep them competitive.

Finland's Middle East trade has leapt up steadily over the last few years, and Finns are now working on projects in virtually all Arab countries.

While they often work with their neighbors, knowing them from earlier projects in Scandinavia, the Finns also naturally tend to stick together if only for linguistic reasons. So their contractors have brought metal and engineering suppliers to the market.

For the last few years the country's semi-official Foreign Trade Association has been orchestrating promotional exhibitions and business visits to the Arab world which have led to further contracts and trade. But initially there was little Arab awareness of Finland. "When we first went there in '75," says one official, "many quite important Saudi businessmen had barely heard of us. The next year they wondered if perhaps we were near England. But now they've come to appreciate us as part of Scandinavia."

Economic, industrial and technological cooperation agreements have also been built up, largely in the last five years, to provide a framework for the growing trade with the Middle East. And Finnish officials and leaders see them as a valuable breeding ground for contracts with the exchange of ideas and possibilities.

But the Finns, in comparison with other peoples, have been late to tackle the Middle East. They have found the usual problems of language and cultural differences, and had virtually no experience of the Arab world a decade ago. Though one

tries, whether for hotels, roads, educational institutions, water and sewerage works, ports, rural electrification projects or forestation. And they have started to supply trucks, port handling equipment, electricity generators and even ro-ro ships — they also have lines connecting the Middle East to Europe.

In the last two years, like other Scandinavian countries, they have established good relations with Iraq, concluding oil supply agreements which have recently been expanded, and receiving major contracts, thanks largely to the joint commission which was established as early as '67.

But while Iraq is their biggest project contract customer the Finns have more under way in Saudi Arabia and still hope to expand their operations there considerably.

"Saudi is a different market," says chairman Aarn Viirnes, of the 5-year-old Finnish-Arab Trade Association. "It's a capitalist market." And the Finns are now to breaking it.

However, one new possibility which emerged from a Finnish trade tour to Saudi late last year, illustrates the new awareness of the market, the country's probable technical ability to compete in the future, and its willingness to transfer technology and help development.

One firm, totally new to the Middle East except for connections through a large Swedish subsidiary supplying oil tanker equipment, is now negotiating possible new desalination plants in Jeddah and Abu Dhabi. They claim to have perfected industrially a laboratory distillation technique using a vacuum and deep/surface seawater temperature difference. This cuts capital costs by at least 10% over standard desalination methods and running costs by even more, as little energy is required to boil the water because of the vacuum.

A prototype has run successfully in Finland and they now hope it will be developed in the peninsula. And because the plants are fairly simple but naturally bulky, they are aiming for actual production on site in the Middle East, possibly even for export.

N.H.

	1978 Imports 1,000 Fmk	Change 1977/78 %	1978 Exports 1,000 Fmk	Change 1977/78 %
Algeria	16,157	+34.1	119,869	+1.0
Bahrain	5	+25.0	4,922	-128.2
Egypt	26,872	+46.6	203,968	+9.4
Ethiopia	21,864	-38.4	1,340	+289.1
Iran	381,454	-20.0	391,254	+7.7
Iraq	155,426	-10.7	133,149	+43.5
Jordan	1	—	8,549	+3.1
Kuwait	2	-84.6	18,409	+16.1
Lebanon	425	-32.1	42,451	+64.2
Libya	653	—	46,889	+14.8
Morocco	33,073	+69.8	33,378	-27.8
Oman	—	—	1,521	-67.5
Qatar	—	—	22,685	—
Saudi Arabia	627,917	-26.3	223,167	+15.0
Somalia	—	—	110	-94.8
Sudan	11,646	-25.3	6,782	+199.6
Syria	300	-52.6	35,378	-42.4
Tunisia	2,349	+53.7	61,597	+24.6
United Arab Emirates	15	-80.3	17,714	+4.8
Yemen Arab Republic	—	—	6,000	+44.6
TOTAL	1,278,159		1,370,132	
Share of total	4.1%		4.1%	

Source: Finnish Foreign Trade Association

Constructors lead the way

Early this month a year's work comes to fruition in Riyadh, and Finland's sophisticated building techniques will expand in the Kingdom. For the Saudi company Mabco will receive its new element factory, designed by Partek and constructed by YTT.

The plant will produce concrete building elements like floors and walls, cutting construction time by around 35% including production time at the plant. The system's great advantage says Partek's managing director, Mr Lehto, is its flexibility as well as its speed. "We have used this kind of technology and are advanced in the field," he says. "And it can be easily adapted to Arab culture for ornaments or building design."

It will probably be the biggest project element plant in the Kingdom. Partek delivered a large one to Kuwait a few years ago as well as a smaller one more recently to Riyadh for Korean contractors working at the University. The new plants annual turnover could reach Fmk 400m, producing around 200,000 sq m of concrete.

Hit by the recession at home, Finnish contractors have increasingly moved abroad during the decade, particularly as they developed extra, now excess, capacity for post-war urbanisation at home and more recently a program to develop the provinces.

Contractors
The Association of General Contractors of Finland estimates that Arab contracts from the beginning of '76 to the end of last year were signed to total almost Fmk 3bn, 35% in Saudi Arabia and 53% in Iraq. Estimates vary as to what share invisibles take in these contracts — feasibility studies, engineering consultations, management and so on unlike 'vis-

ible' exported machinery and other goods — but construction industry sources suggest it could be as high as 80%.

Last year, Finland's Middle East contracting exports, including Iran, accounted for 47% of total as against 41% in the Soviet Union where Finnish firms have been active since the early '70s developing industrial mining and forestation regions on the border with huge turnkey projects.

For some Russian projects, Finnish contractors formed a consortium with almost twenty firms as shareholders. And while their Middle East projects individually have yet to reach such gigantic proportions, project-based consortiums have formed there to cope with the relatively small sized Finnish firms.

Finland's contractors have moved abroad with enormous annual increases during this decade. Initially the bulk of work lay in Russia but the trend of growing Middle East importance has been marked, and already in '76, non-Soviet contracting exports took the larger share.

In Saudi Arabia, much Finnish work has been done with water systems by Finnish firms, notably YTT and its part-Saudi local subsidiary. Their first Middle East contract was in 1958 for the Karbala Water Supply and treatment plant in Iraq. Then they undertook several water supply and sewerage treatment projects in Jordan before moving to Saudi in '66 for the Riyadh water treatment plants and distribution system.

Since then they worked for example, on water supply and pumping station projects in Jeddah, and then moved to Medina where a number of water projects are in progress.

In much of their work they have used the Swedish consultants VBB,

showing inter-Scandinavian cooperation. But as well as a local partner they have also worked with other international contractors and consultants, and President Mäkinen of YTT says there is a growing mood of international cooperation among contractors.

Although YTT's activities have been much wider than just water-works — they even run a shipping operation — it is clear that for them, as well as other Finnish contractors, specialisation provides a key to success, particularly in establishing a reputation, vital in the Saudi market.

Few pure consulting firms from Finland have established themselves in the Kingdom. But through such specialisation, one has. For following their soil investigation work for Mecca's coming tunnels to ease the pilgrim congestion, Geotech has stayed to investigate numerous further projects.

They further illustrate the Finnish need for flexible ability to form consortia, having introduced several old consulting friends in different fields to the Kingdom. They are sharing offices and hope future success of the others will lead to group contracts.

Finland's most dramatic consortium project in the Middle East is the 200,000 cubic metre Baghdad conference palace being built for the congress of non-aligned countries in 1982.

Design

In design, however, was already in Finnish hands a year ago, and Finnish architects have landed other major Arab contracts. They are involved with the rebuilding of the old city center of Kuwait on the shores of the Bay, designing the Emir's office and reception building, the Ministerial Council, and the Foreign Ministry and Technical Center buildings.

Finland's architects have yet to win any major Saudi contracts individually, but they won an international Bahrain competition for a new cultural center, though the project has yet to go ahead. However, the Finnish architects association in Helsinki regularly meets to discuss the problems of adapting their ideas to the Arab culture.

Scandinavian furniture design is internationally known, and the Finns have had some success in the Middle East. But quality they've found, rarely substitutes for price; they're still hoping for more hotel projects — as are Finnish contractors.

Forestation

If Finland has a traditional speciality, however, it is forestry. Iran's Caspian forests have been a natural target for know-how exports. But interesting projects are also

under way in Abu Dhabi and Libya by Lannen Tehtaat. It has built a nursery in Libya under a turnkey project to grow various types of trees from seedlings planted and suitably shaded. In another Libyan project, young fruit and forest trees are individually watered at their roots from an irrigation pipe.

135 km south-west of Abu Dhabi another forestation project is under way and the contract includes water supply by means of large, open wells, fencing off the area, construction of an irrigation network, seedling planting and three years management.

These projects are too new to assess and have yet to be attempted in Saudi, but the desert could yet bloom. Another company, Farnos, has been in Jeddah on a smaller scale, planting trees in peat-pots at the water tower.

Engineering

Equipment and machinery exports to the Middle East have sharply increased over the last few years along with the total growth in trade. Metal engineering construction work by the Finns has so far been limited to a few grain silos, such as one in Abu Dhabi.

As Finland comes alive to its possibilities in the Arab world, other sectors are looking on with greater interest. The national sales organisation for converted wood products for example, is hoping to supply Saudi's cement industry with bags, and they are starting to look for other packaging possibilities.

Finns are also already active in several Arab countries on rural electrification projects using know-how gained from their own home experience. This work has also led to the supply of cables and other electrical equipment as well as diesel generators.

The bulk of Finnish projects have naturally been straightforward construction contracts for housing. But even here, and beyond their unusually industrialised home construction industry, they have strangely appropriate insulation skills to offer, for naturally in Saudi their materials work in reverse and keep the heat out.

One Bahrain-based banker dealing with the Finns pointed to the different but equally harsh climates as a further surprising advantage. "The Finns are used to working without home comforts and get on with the job in all conditions."

For the future, Finland clearly intends to further develop its new Arab market if possible. Contract bids will grow as they go for more projects, but through them the country also hopes to expand its range of skills and products at work in the Middle East.

N.H.

Making the desert bloom near Abu Dhabi



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هذه امته الاصل

Social upheaval

The move to the towns brings riches . . . and stress

By Donald Fields

During the last generation, the Finns have undergone a more thorough-going social upheaval than almost any other nation in Europe. In 1950 two out of every three people still lived in the countryside; today the same proportion inhabits the towns. Allied to the large-scale emigration to Sweden, this transformation has virtually put paid to the familiar, static extended family community which reached its apotheosis in the huge farmsteads of old Karelia. Many Finns have still to find worthwhile new ties to replace the old.

Only as newcomers assimilate themselves to the towns ("they need five to ten years," says a child welfare officer) is the pain which the process entails fully appreciated. People from the forested heartland who once lived in splendid isolation are artificially brought together in the anonymous multi-storey blocks and shiny, soulless supermarkets of new suburbia.

'Little boxes'

Apartments are generally spotless and brimful with amenities, shops are crammed with enticing luxuries, public officials go through the motions of showing concern — but a well-knit human web rarely emerges from the inadequately thought-up web. Property speculators, planners and politicians with short-sighted aims must all take the blame for the emptiness felt by many uprooted Finns inside and outside their 'little boxes on the hillside'.

The socio-psychological consequences of the abrupt change are never far below the surface. Rapid growth rates from 1950 to the 1973 'oil crisis' were manifested on the individual level by a rush for the trappings of status. The subsequent planing-down of

economic expectations has not removed this pursuit. As one Helsinki youth puts it, "Our parents' troubles stem from trying to make ends meet. They can't afford to have the high standards they try to maintain, and this produces a conflict. It's important for Finns to have all kinds of status objects — TV, cars, and so on — so they can show their neighbors how much better they are."

Compared with the slow, reliable tempo of the forsaken agrarian society, life in the towns is hectic, an exercise in biting off more than can be chewed. For newcomers plenty of time is needed to form lasting friendships, so intensive, short-lived, experiences and hollow acquaintanceships are an attractive way of combating loneliness and bewilderment.

Families

Families naturally feel the pressure most as values change and generations become cut off from each other. Young parents in the towns have little contact with their fathers and mothers left tending the family forest and dairy herd long distances away. Since part-time work is rarely available, young mothers have to choose between a stay-at-home existence within the dreary concrete blocks or long hours away at the office or factory while their children are left in a nursery or exposed to the perils of home help. Being independently-minded — and committed to rising standards — most women prefer the latter option.

Changing mores and the breakdown of family life have resulted in many broken homes. In the Helsinki area one in every three marriages ends in divorce. Disentangling cause and effect is a futile exercise, but abuse of alcohol and the violence this arouses

are often associated with such ruptures.

The Finns drinking habits have been analysed to the point of boredom. Yet liquor intake per head does not markedly deviate from the West European average. The main concern has rather been a rapid increase since the 'liberalisation' of the late 1960s (this has now flattened out), and the erratic nature of consumption.

Moralising on this issue, an exercise indulged in by the deeply entrenched and rigid temperance movement, is pointless: most westerners exposed to the merciless cold and darkness of a Finnish winter would feel the need for an occasional fling. But the Finnish attitude to the bottle is captured in the unemotional tones of a leading psychiatrist: "We hide our weaknesses in the illusory powers of alcohol, seeking an escape route for stresses when we have time on our hands."

Suicide

Despite some isolated instances among young people, Finland has been largely spared one North American and West European scourge: drug abuse. However, inwardly-turned aggressions culminate in the absolute form — suicide — with distressing frequency. Slightly ahead of Austria, Denmark and Sweden, but behind Hungary, Finland almost tops world suicide statistics (25.1 per 100,000 in 1974).

Other indicators of the stresses sparked off by a social disruption are the high rate of coronary diseases among men of lower middle-age, a large number of people showing neurotic symptoms or incapable of working for psychological reasons, and the incidence of fatal road accidents. According to one medical authority, "We take life too seriously, allowing our com-

petitive mentality to dominate us. We should adopt a calmer attitude, modifying our deep-rooted habits, and eating fewer fats and more vegetables."

Alienation

The 1970s have brought an unprecedented problem: persistent mass unemployment. In both January 1978 and January 1979, the out-of-work totalled 197,000 — almost 9 per cent of the labour force. To occupy the one-third of the jobless who are aged under 25, training schemes and employment subsidies have been devised. But many of the young have understandable doubts about the future. Despite attaining majority — and the vote — at 18, they are so politically complacent that a special campaign has been launched to encourage them to participate in the March general election; whether this will eradicate their feeling of alienation from the decision-making process is open to doubt.

Given a new boom in Sweden, a revival can be expected of the emigration which so much depleted Finland of skilled, vital youngsters in the pre-recession period. Even without such a loss, Finland's population is unlikely ever to exceed 5 million, and should start declining early in the 21st century. Couples may feel gradually more disinclined to produce children because of uncertain prospects: the birth-rate, touching 24 per mille in the 1940s, now oscillates in Nordic style between 12 and 14.

Perfectionists

But to paint an entirely gloomy picture would do the tenacious and gifted Finns a gross injustice. Those who fall by the wayside provide an all too easy commentary on the evils of change; the vast majority do not, and make full use of the abundant oppor-

tunities their country affords for physical and intellectual fulfilment.

Finns still live in harmony with nature — a phenomenon from which, happily, they will never escape. On the whole, they are seekers after perfection — using either hands shaped to mould wood with ease, or brains conditioned by an advanced educational system whose main fault is to allow formality to override self-initiative. Without an insight into the Finns' impossible but expressive language, it is hard to appreciate the depth of their spiritual reserves, the richness of their self-ironic humour. Artistic expression — boosted by a stormy history and inherent social conflicts — reaches a pitch absent in the more predictable and conventional Scandinavian countries to the West.

In the past, casual visitors to Finland found the natives somewhat forbidding but obviously decent and honest. Today a more attractive picture emerges: younger Finns, as products of a more liberal education and extensive travellers, feel more at home in foreign languages but have retained the old sense of hospitality.

One aspect of the Finnish character might still escape attention, however — the power of human emotions, often unstated in words but transmitted through gestures and silence. If the nation has acquired a stern countenance after centuries of struggling to survive in an awkward geographical position, there are collective experiences which move it to tears or unleash spontaneous euphoria — for example, the performance of a plaintive folk song or yet another Olympic triumph.

At times the effect is almost mystic, hinting at the power still exercised by religion. Though only one in fifty of the 92 per cent who belong to the Lutheran Church attends worship on the average Sunday, there is conspicuously little anti-clerical feeling or move to opt out of Church membership, and the 1 per

cent tax payment this entails. Cynically, one might believe people were hedging their bets with the Almighty, but the vitality of ecclesiastical music and the strength of revivalist fervour indicate otherwise.

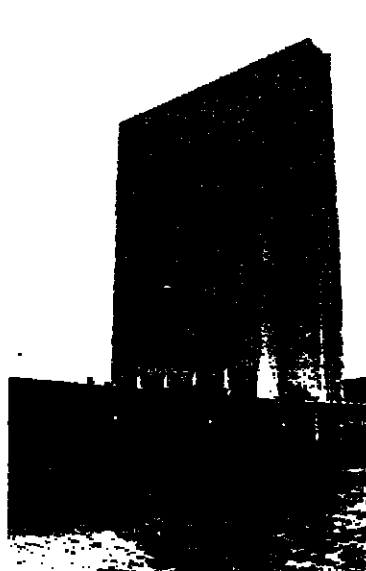
Prosperity well used

So despite their status-seeking and their interest in their position in the world standard-of-living league (currently 18th), the Finns are not mere materialists. As things stand, the prosperity they have achieved is frequently well used: an unparalleled system of care for expectant mothers and infants; a growing network of health centres to extend preventive medicine; a handsome spread of public libraries, regional theatres and concert halls to disseminate culture; excellent sports facilities at all seasons; and better social security than ever before. The price of these amenities is some wasteful administration and considerable party political patronage, but the benefits vastly outweigh the drawbacks.

As the population moves from the countryside evaporates, the years of upheaval become a period of consolidation. Old straight-forward contrasts — town/country, rural producers/urban consumers, organic labour/profit-seeking capital — are losing their validity potency as political points. In the run-in to 1980s, integrating forces appear to have gained a clear upper hand over fissiparous deviations, testifying to the success of President Kekkonen in welding a grand coalition combining all from the moderate bourgeois to the patriotically inclined, mild majority within the Communist party.

Those excluded from this consensus occasionally express their bitterness, and Finns are such individualists that the political alignments might yet again disintegrate, but the ability of a nation with diverse interests to obtain some unity of purpose indicates that it has come of age socially.

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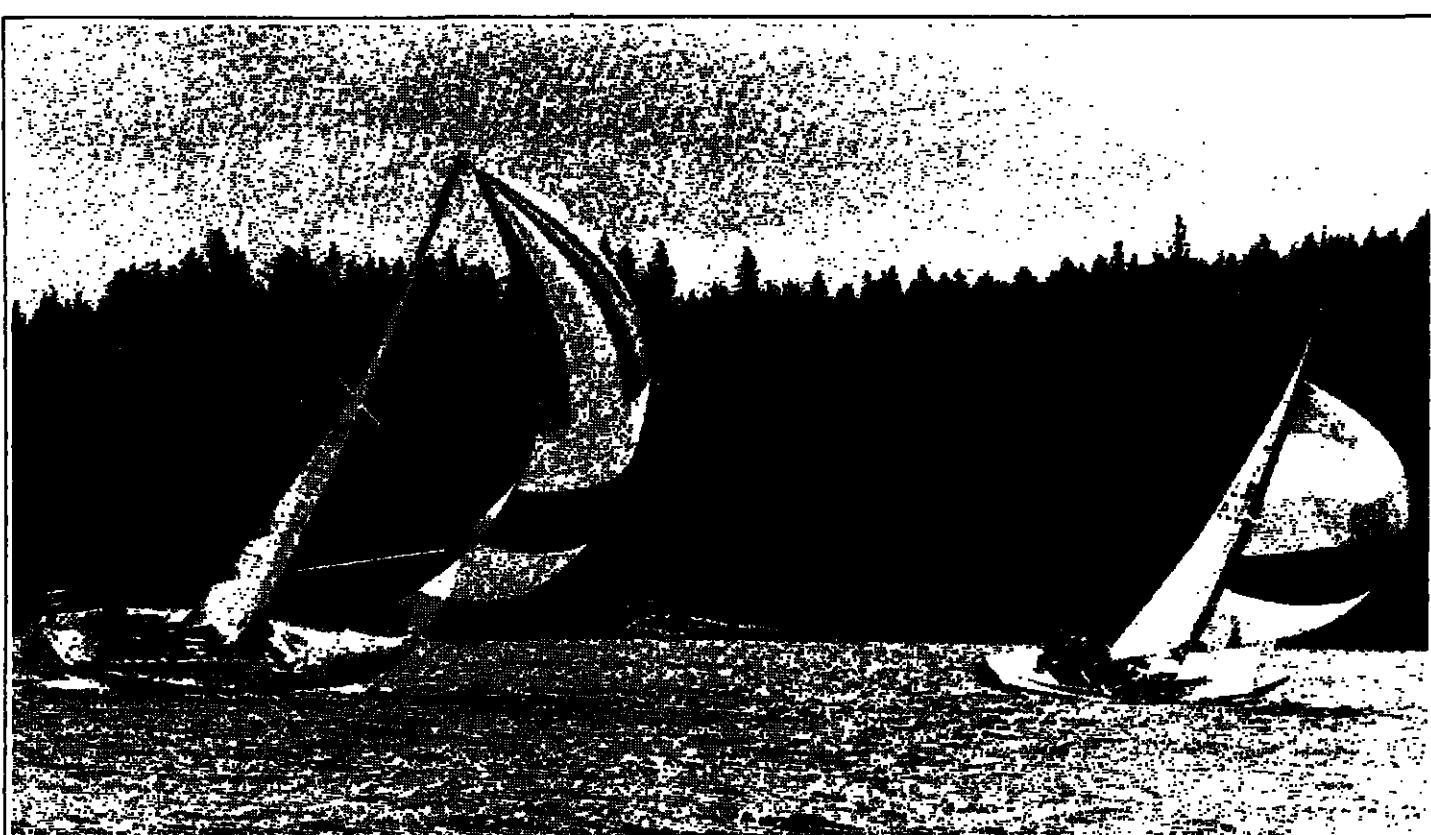


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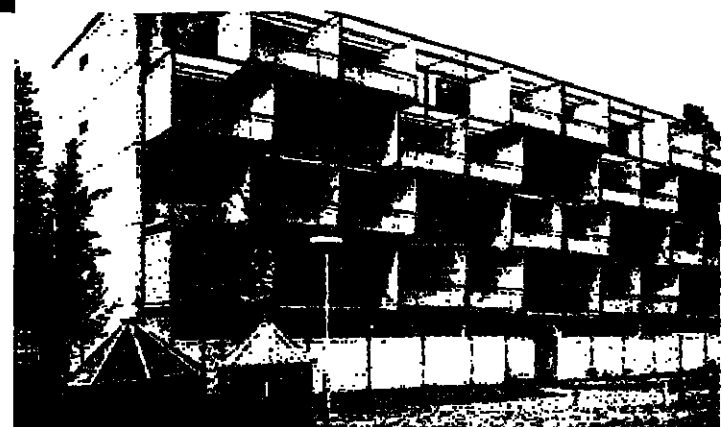
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Energy

"Conserve and diversify" as oil bill boomed

Finland's total energy consumption of 24 million tons of oil equivalent last year was double that of 1962. Industrial growth and particularly the development of its forestry sector gave this rise; the result is unusually high consumption by Western standards.

Indigenous energy resources are poor, imports accounting for almost three-quarters of consumption. But hydro-power has been highly developed for decades; the nuclear program has been untainted by the political turmoil of its Swedish counterpart, and research continues into its main non-wood resource, peat.

Furthermore, it has developed unusual and efficient methods of combined heat and electricity generation. Other areas like its industrial conservation, insulation and district heating supply systems also contributed to the American interest aroused by the recent Finnenergy '79 exhibition and tour there.

However, oil consumption is expected to grow and like the rest of Europe, Finland will increasingly look to the Arab world for supplies.

Oil accounted for 50% of energy consumption last year at 12 m tons, all imported but largely as crude. The national oil company, Neste, has bought and refined most of it for several decades. The country's already excess refining capacity of 15 m tons a year will soon rise further to cover all possible growth throughout the '80s.

Under bilateral cooperation agreements with the Soviet Union, two-thirds of Finland's crude oil, as well as some gas, coal, electricity and nuclear fuel, comes from across the border. The rest is imported from Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq, together with tiny amounts from the North Sea.

In '77, Finland like Sweden, concluded a direct agreement with Iraq for crude imports starting last year. And in view of the Iranian cut-backs it was recently extended by half a million tons to 1.2 mts for this year, and almost doubled to 1.5 mts for 1980. The Finns favour direct purchasing from producers but buy through Exxon's Saudi imports, their second major oil source, a fifth of their total crude.

The Soviet oil supplies are boosted by refined products directly re-exported by Soviet companies, cutting Neste's

processing monopoly by a quarter. Vital to Finland, they form the basis for trade co-operation. But the question facing it is whether increased supplies over the current 10 mt limit can be negotiated for the next five-year agreement from 1980. "This is a very important issue," Erkki Vaara, director-general of the Energy Department, told Arab News.

Such supply increases however, seem unlikely. But energy demand is also unlikely to reach the 6.1% average annual growth rate from 1960 to 1973 when oil consumption peaked at 12.9 mts, 56% of total. Since then total energy demand dropped to reach slowly a new peak last year; but not for oil, which formed the bulk of the long-term increase in consumption.

Finnish interest in OPEC oil will grow as its economy grows, but since '76, the main Saudi share has decreased in favour of increased supplies from Iran and Iraq. And while preferring direct purchases under long-term agreements, Finland also seeks to diversify its sources.

"In principle we are ready to diversify our oil imports," Trade and Industry Minister Eero Rantala says, though quickly adding the context.

"Naturally, the most important part will continue to come from the Soviet Union."

But he further pointed to the difficulties of countries dependent on Iranian oil. And the Finns are certainly aware of declining Soviet reserves, most recently highlighted in a new CIA report which suggests Soviet oil supplies will decrease.

Finland ranks seventh in per capita energy consumption according to the OECD, and although all the Nordic countries are naturally high consumers in terms of gross domestic product, Finland consumes more than Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

Industry consumes around two-thirds of the energy. Officials blame the high consumption on the forestry sector's particularly demanding processes: wood grinding and pounding for pulp and paper, and then their manufacture and drying. The heavy metals industry for ships and so on is also demanding.

But industry itself also produces half of the country's energy requirements. Some of this is from indigenous sources, particularly wood, the traditional burnt energy source. But in industry much waste pulp and wood liquors are used for generation. Internal conservation processes are also highly developed for example in the forestry industry where heat is recycled back for space-heating after pulp and paper drying. Wood or its waste products last year supplied 15% of all energy.

Last year's new parliamentary-approved energy policy undertakes to promote further conservation as well as increased use of indigenous resources and improved administration. "We will be happy if we can save 10-15% in 1990 compared to the free growth of energy consumption," says the country's

energy chief, Vaara. He points to Finland's traditionally high energy bill and the consequent conservation advances already made. Little slack is left.

Vaara cites the combined generation of heat and electricity as a particularly advanced and useful saver when combined with district heating. After running through turbine generators for electricity, the remaining high pressure steam is usually wasted.

But the Finns use the heat by distributing hot-water — like electricity — through urban networks where each building takes a share to be distributed internally for heating. Central district heating systems save some 20% of energy compared to the usual single consumer units of the West. Over 20% of Finnish housing is already connected to district heating and this is expected to rise to 40% over the next decade.

The real saving, however, lies at the combined heat and electricity plants. "Whatever

primary energy you feed into them, you can reach an efficiency level of higher than 80% for the total use of energy," says Vaara. "But in normal power stations, it is under 40%."

These ideas excited American energy officials and businessmen at the recent Finnenergy '79 industrial sales tour according to Vaara who was in Washington. But at the moment, US legislation prevents co-generation, though elsewhere the British are showing interest, and the Swedes already have district heating.

Finns hope the exhibition also interested the Americans in their developed know-how on hydro-electricity. This accounts for around a tenth of their energy supplies and a third of electricity which, though expensive, is widely used in Finland because it is easily transported. But there are few places left to tap hydro power.

The Finns also hope the tour of Washington, New

York and Chicago generated new possibilities for their system of underground oil storage, also common in Sweden. Since the early '60s they have built 75 of the unlined underground units with capacities ranging from 200,000 to 6 million barrels.

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Last year, Parliament legislated control over the construction of new private power stations to balance energy supply and check future demand for oil and coal. Currently, oil and coal are largely imported from Poland and last year accounted for 15% of energy consumed.

But the traditional private interest in energy supply originally based on wood and, even a century ago, mechanical hydro power has continued into the nuclear age.

An industrial consortium has initiated the construction of two Swedish-designed 660MW boiling water type nuclear reactors on an island off the south-west coast. The first went critical late last year, and the second will also soon start feeding the national electricity grid. The state has a stake in the consortium and through public companies this will rise to 50%; it will oversee operations and security in the normal way.

But it also has two Soviet-designed 420MW pressurised water type nuclear reactors. One is still under construction, but the other started production in '77 and nuclear energy accounted for 3% of total last year. This is expected to double this year and by 1982 the four reactors should provide 3.2 million tons of oil equivalent, 12% of planned demand.

This nuclear growth will be the most dramatic change in Finland's future energy scene, and the government has yet to decide whether to go ahead

Total energy demand in Finland 1977-1978 (Million tons of oil equivalent)

	1977	1978	Change %	Share % 1978
Oil	12.17	12.00	- 1	50
Coal	2.60	3.60	+ 38	15
Natural Gas	0.78	0.83	+ 7	3
Nuclear Power	0.63	0.77	+ 22	3
Electricity Imports	0.22	0.32	+ 43	1
Imported Energy	16.40	17.52	+ 7	73
Hydro Power	2.99	2.43	- 19	10
Peat	0.13	0.40	+ 208	2
Other Domestic Fuels	3.30	3.60	+ 9	15
Indigenous Energy	6.42	6.43	+ 0	27
Total	22.82	23.95	+ 5	100

with a new 1000MW reactor. It is under considerably less environmentalist pressure than its Swedish counterpart whose two predecessors fell under the axe of the nuclear issue, but the final decision won't be taken for some time.

Though not yet able to provide complete plants like the Swedes, the Finns have developed their nuclear know-how with much construction and technical supplies for their home projects. And they are considering joint nuclear projects with the Russians in other countries, particularly in view of their satisfaction with the first reactor. "The results up to now have been excellent," says Vaara. "There has been absolutely no fuel leakage, so it has one of the highest availability records in the world."

Preliminary discussions are already under way with Libya and Iraq for two similar plants. "It's very difficult to talk about timetables," Trade Minister Eero Rantala says. "But I am optimistic we can have a concrete solution."

For the future, the Finns are keen to develop their large peat resources estimated at 1300 million tons of oil equivalent. Peat accounted for only 2% of supply last year; but its use has grown and Vaara says it could supply 6% of energy at the end of the '80s. However, the reserves, among the highest in the world, are widely scattered and peat is a capital-intensive fuel.

Soviet gas is another possible growth area in the short term. Finland has a contract for up to 1.4 bn cubic metres a year and so far only uses two-thirds of it. It is directly imported to the south-east pipeline which could be extended. But the feasibility studies under way are expected to suggest the project too costly.

Overall future energy demand estimates vary from 5% up to 1990. For the next few years, the government energy department expects new nuclear production keep down increases in oil demand. But after that it will grow, and almost certain look to the Middle East for supply.



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مكة امنه لاند

New industries outstrip forestry

By Donaki Fields

Finland's present market economy is scarcely recognisable from the primitive structure, based on indigenous resources, which emerged from the Second World War. Whereas forest products contributed 85 per cent of exports in the early 1950s, their share in 1978 barely exceeded 40 per cent. Metals and engineering now consistently account for one-third (34% in 1978), while such relative newcomers as chemicals (8%), textiles and clothing (8%), and construction have shown laudable zest. But despite the diversification, doubts remain about the ability of industry and successive Governments in preparing for the big changes to come.

Besides its wealth in the world's only major self-renewing raw material (wood) and certain minerals (copper, vanadium, chrome, zinc and nickel), Finland boasts several assets in meeting the challenge of the future. Manpower is imbued with a high standard of workmanship, and receptive to technological advances. A small nation tends to harness its resources and concentrate its sales efforts rationally — though in their marketing and communications the Finns leave much to be desired. Generally Finnish industry is open to innovation, younger managers are prepared to cast aside hidebound prejudices in business methods and labour relations.

Wood

The forest industries still hold the key to Finland's survival, supplying as they do two-thirds of net foreign exchange earnings. Though the

share of imported raw material used in wood-processing has risen from nil a generation ago, to one-tenth today, and though the pulp and paper sector absorbs 60 per cent of industrial energy consumption, the import-input ratio remains healthily low.

Ever since it gained independence in 1917, Finland has been exceptional in Western Europe in running central marketing organisations for forest products, each pooling the resources of the big companies. Efforts have been concentrated on Western Europe, where steady customer relations have been the guiding principle. By contrast, the small Middle East market operates through specialist tenders, making competitive prices essential. The Finns appear confident that they can retain their high share of Saudi Arabia's printing-paper imports and increase business with such high-potential outlets as Egypt.

Mr Martti Korhonen, a director of the Central Association of Finnish Forest Industries, says that the raw material basis alone will not offer the private giants enough expansion opportunities: "Since we are dependent on electrically-controlled and automatic systems, it is natural to use them as a springboard for diversification. Paper machines and electronics have already attracted companies moving into new fields."

Metals and engineering

This is the meeting point between the forest industries and the No. 2 sector, metals and engineering. Since 1955 this group has registered increases of 256 per cent in pro-

duction and 90 per cent in labour input. In terms of value added and manpower employed, it is the forerunner in Finland.

Licking its lips at an estimated world demand for 1,200-1,500 paper and board machines over the next decade, the engineering sector believes that its existing capacity could be boosted with relatively little extra investment. Besides wood-processing equipment, new lines could include materials handling apparatus and electronic devices — the latter subject to stiff international competition.

Though Iraq has been the only notable purchaser in the region, Mr Nils Hellen, Managing Director of the Federation of Finnish Metal and Engineering Industries, sees the Middle East as a promising market. In 1978 the main outlets for exports were Coocon (34%), EFTA (27%), and the EEC (20%). In less slumped years Western Europe claims a higher share.

Construction

The most dramatic move into the oil-exporting countries has been made by the construction industry. Last year invoicing by Finnish contractors in foreign markets totalled Fmk 1.7 billion — a 50 per cent increase on the record set in 1977. Billings will easily exceed the target of Fmk 2 billion in 1980, bringing Finland into line with France and West Germany in the sense that exports are equivalent to more than one-tenth of the industry's domestic business.

The labour shake-up during the on-going recession has

bitten deeply into Finnish society. Until 1975, industry was absorbing 2.5 per cent extra men and women each year, but since then total numbers employed have declined by over 100,000. Former Prime Minister Mr Keijo Linamäe of the Ministry of Labor, has calculated that even with 3.5 per cent annual growth (a rate not recorded since 1974) unemployment cannot be substantially cut in the 1980s.

Challenge

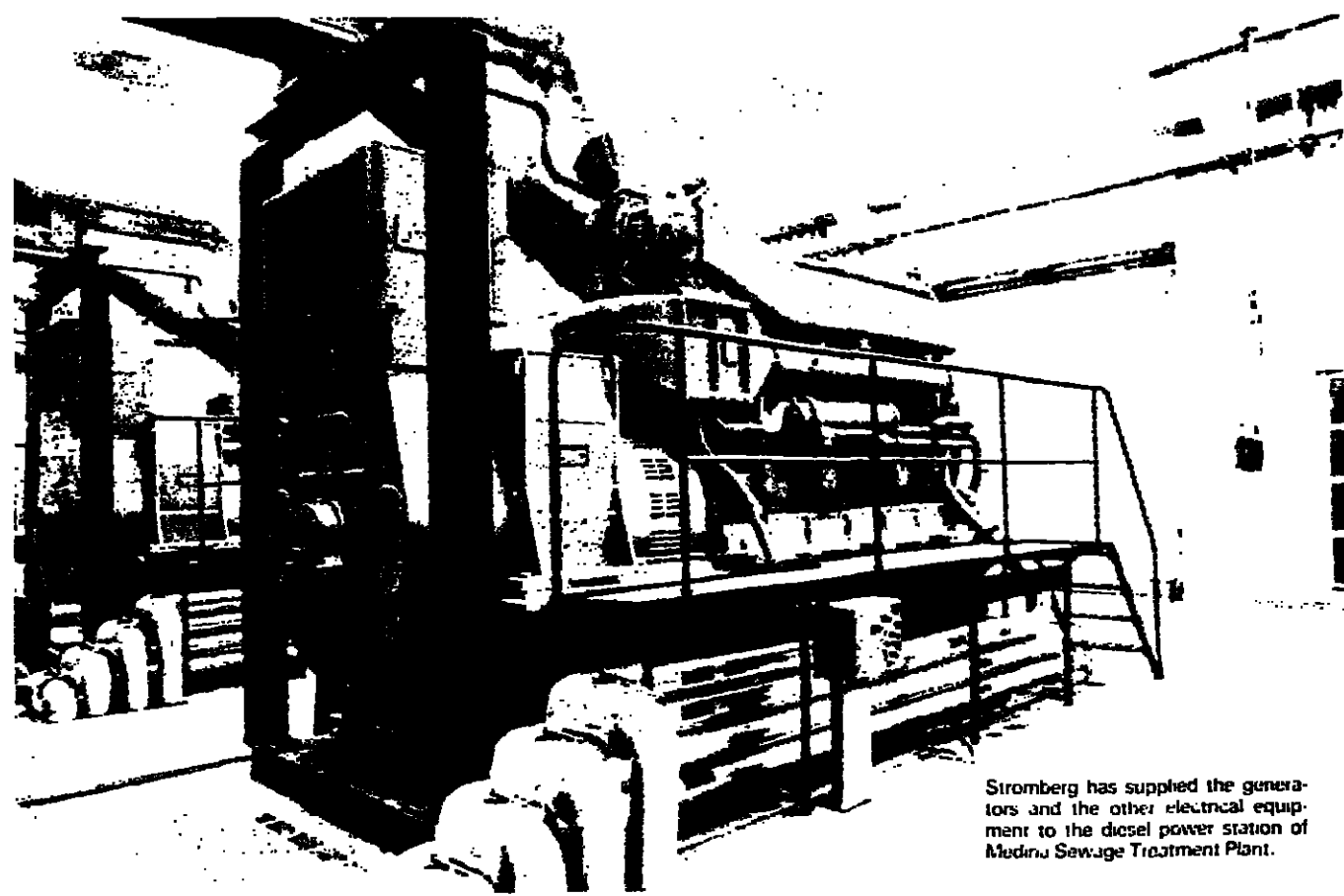
Backed by a recently established standing committee on industrial policy, the Government can give a major lead through the selective allocation of funds for research and development, promotion of technical education, and the disposal of credits and subsidies. Though Left-wing politicians occasionally play to their own gallery with calls for nationalisation of banks, insurance companies and even the forest industry, the balance of ownership is not a burning question. Having to look only a short distance eastward, most Finns find Socialism in practice obnoxious and seek more subtle means of redressing capital's advantages over labor.

Strategic sectors

No changes are envisaged in the terms under which multi-nationals operate, i.e. they are excluded from 'strategic sectors' like wood-processing and mining and restricted to a maximum 20 per cent of shares in companies performing certain key public services. In most existing cases parent companies generally have a 98-99 per cent holding in their Finnish operations. Led by Shell and Esso, twenty-five international companies had a turnover in Finland exceeding Fmk 100 million in 1977. So far Arab investment, direct or indirect, has been limited.

As Finnish companies themselves seek sensible methods of restructualisation and reinvigoration, their battle cries become ever clearer: a prolongation of tax relief on investment, a reduction of red tape, and less politically-blinkered decision-making at Government level.

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Strömberg has supplied the generators and the other electrical equipment to the diesel power station of Madina Sewage Treatment Plant.

Oy Strömberg Ab is the leading Finnish manufacturer of electrical machinery and equipment for power stations, electrical utilities, industry and for all forms of transport. In this field the company has 90 years of experience. The Company's activities also include complete electrification of plants together with the engineering and installation work.

Strömberg has supplied electrical equipment to different parts of the world. Best is Strömberg known for electrical drivers for paper machines, electric motors, diesel generators, large power transformers and electric propulsion machineries for ice-breakers.

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The Sewage Treatment Plant for Basrah University in Iraq is the most recent order VISE has received in the field of water engineering.

For further information, please contact:



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A fine example of Wärtsilä's new creative way of thinking is the car/passenger ferry Finnjet, the pride of the Baltic. This vessel, over 200 metres in length and powered by gas-turbine engines, is the world's largest and fastest car/passenger ferry.



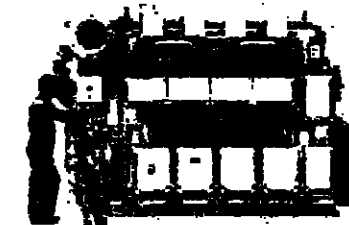
Equally good examples are the much smaller products, like this Arabia porcelain and the Nuutajärvi glass ware. Ever-developing working examples of practical design, they are perhaps the best known of Wärtsilä products throughout the world.



Or the Ekenäs Pottery sanitary system which reduces the amount of water required for flushing to less than one half of what was needed before.



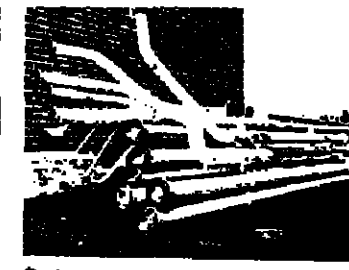
Or the Abloy security locking systems which are widely used in exacting security sensitive applications. A full range of all types of locks are also available for any ordinary or specific use.



Or the diesel engines of the Vasa Factory which are gaining popularity in the Middle East for electric power generation due to their durability and sturdy structure.



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However, as all these examples show, good-looking design is not enough in itself. First and foremost the product must meet the customer's functional requirements. Or even exceed them. When Wärtsilä creates something new, it is also meant to function. That is always the key aspect of our technology.

WÄRTSILÄ

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Trade

“Unexploited possibilities for growth”

Finland's Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Eero Rantala, discusses his country's Arab trade with ARAB NEWS and points to possible future areas of cooperation.

Like many other countries, Finland has seen a large growth in trade with the Arab world since 1973. Are you satisfied with your country's performance?

The trade between Finland and the Arab countries has developed quite well in the course of this decade. The annual turnover was about US\$ 100 million in the first years of the '70s and last year it amounted to about US\$ 600 million. At the same time, the share of this trade of the total turnover has risen from 2 per cent to around 4.

The imports from the Arab world are to a large extent concentrated in crude oil from Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia. The rest of the imports consist of various commodities differing from country to country. For instance fresh fruits, fish preparations and raw phosphate are amongst the products imported from the Arab countries.

Our exports have been more diversified, although the products of wood processing industry still make more than a half of our exports to the Arab countries.

We have noted with satisfaction that the success of the metal and engineering industry in searching for new markets in the Arab world has been remarkable during the recent years.

But there are still unexploited possibilities for growing trade both in Finland and the Arab countries, and we hope that in the future we could through diversification of our mutual trade reach results corresponding to the potential of our economies.

What do you feel Finland specially has to offer the Arab world?

You are certainly aware of traditional Finnish specialties such as forest industry products, which still hold an important place in our total exports as well as in our exports to the Arab countries. But as I said earlier, there is a diversification on the way in the direction of an increased cooperation also in other fields. There are many sectors where I think Finland is especially well placed to offer her experience gained during our extremely rapid industrialization in the postwar period.

I do not only refer to different kinds of machinery but also to consulting services and technology in several sectors close to human environment, such as construction, urban planning and water supply, health and education as well as communications and telecommunications. Just to mention a few. There are also the agricultural, mining and metal industries, and energy supply areas like electrification.

Construction has formed the bulk of Finnish trade with the Middle East, do you expect this to continue in view of the increasing competition particularly from developing areas?

Yes I think it will continue, because the input of Finnish industry has been quite important and big. The competition is becoming more serious and hard. But I think that our competitiveness is very good. So is our quality and time-table keeping and so on; we are very safe deliverers.



Eero Rantala

We are relying on ourselves and because we are competing, we must fight and also win. We have a technical advantage, but if it is compared to price, then we must always take price.

We cannot win if our prices are too high. That's why the economic policy in Finland has in general, tried to eliminate inflation, and now we have succeeded.

I also think that this construction industry has been the start of enlarged trade to other branches, and also the wider construction industry. We can construct industrial facilities, plants and so on, and we can also deliver components and machines. So, through projects, we can enlarge our traditional trade.

What problems have the Finns found in the Middle East?

As in the case with every new market area, Finnish firms have also experienced problems in the Middle East. In some fields difficulties might have been caused by geographical distances and extremely tough competition from all over the world.

But mainly, I think problems have arisen from the fact that our firms have faced a new business environment, very different from what they have been used to. In order to be successful a seller has to know the cultural background and the normal habits and be-

haviour of his prospective buyers. This certainly cannot be done overnight. I am afraid that we Finns have not always kept that in mind.

Even if there are no easy remedies for this situation, there has been a considerable improvement as a result of business trips and personal contacts which have led to increased experience with regard to the environment in which business is done in the Arab world.

How important is the Middle East likely to be for Finland in the future?

Like in all countries, the main part of Finland's foreign trade takes place with neighbouring countries. However, the trade with new markets is growing rapidly.

In spite of the fact that the turnover with the Arab countries has grown, the development has not been fully satisfactory in all respects, partly due to the one-sided structure of the imports from the Middle East.

We hope, that the diversification of production, and trade as well, will lead to increasing trade relations, and we believe that the agreements on scientific, technological and economic co-operation provide an efficient framework for closer connections between our countries.

How will Finland react to increasing OPEC and Arab demands for a greater share of downstream and refining activity?

Naturally, our attitude is positive so that we are interested to take part in this consultation, know-how cooperation, construction work and so on, if the oil refining industry is constructed in the Arab world.

You know that we have a very high level of quality in the oil refining industry in Finland. And also our Neste company has good relations with most important oil exporting countries in the Arab world. So we are ready to cooperate.

Also, industrially-politically so to speak, we see that in a changing world it is a fact that those countries producing important raw materials, are also constructing industries based on them.

N.H.

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